しおんの王
The Flowers of Hard Blood.
7
原作・かとりまさる
漫画・安藤慈朗
Story・KATORI MASARU / Art・ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC
しおんの王
7
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59th Move
Wrestling
pp219
58th Move
The Route to Checkmate
pp237
57th Move
Solid Enemy
pp261
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Story・KATORI MASARU / Art・ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC
42nd Move
Two Demons
pp1
41st Move
The Resurrection Moves
pp41
40th Move
Three
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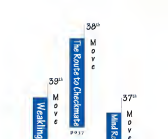
Why is it never play shogi
Now challenges the shogi world as a women's league player to find out the truth!
This shogi manga is a novel, now turns up the heat!!

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗



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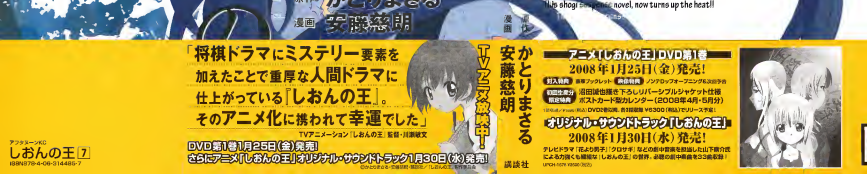

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KC485

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しおんの王
The Flowers of Blood.
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原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

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AFTERNOON
KC4ß5

The Laplace's Demon

しおんの王

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原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

講談社

しおんの王
The Flowers of Evil, Blood.
7
原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗
Story : KATORI
Art : ANDO
AFTERNOON

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38th Move The Route to Checkmate p037
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41st Move The Resurrection Move p151
42nd Move Two Demons p181

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood

Story | KATORI MASARU × Art . ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

Cover Design | hive

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しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood.

原作 かとりまさる
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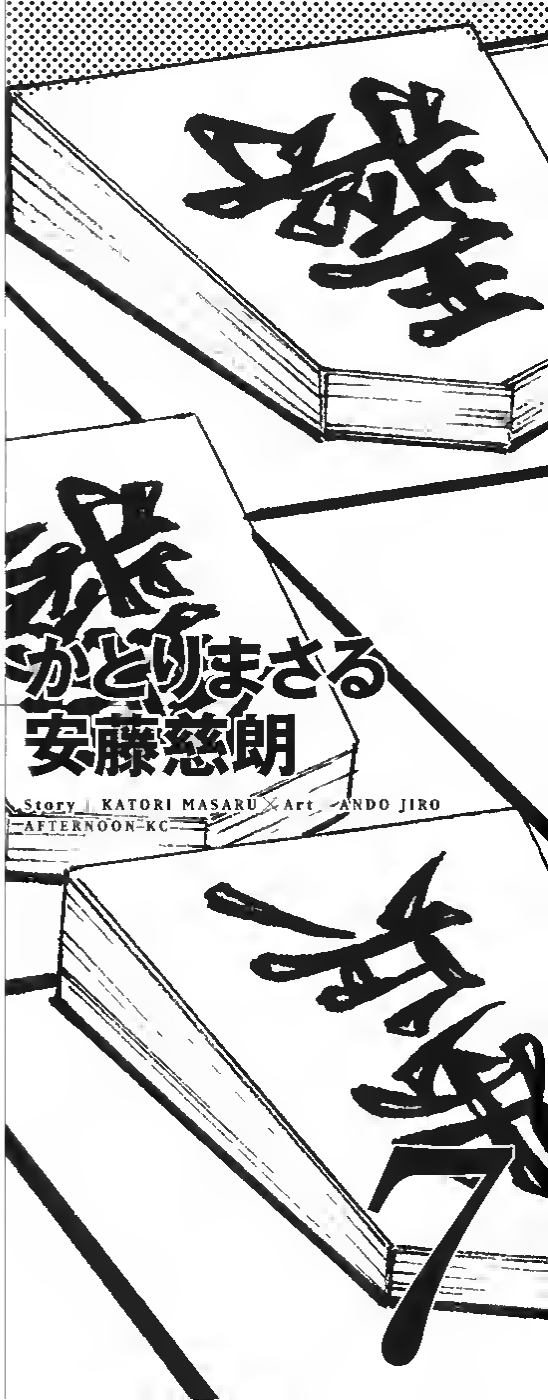


story

Shion, who lost her parents at a young age, was adopted into a professional shogi kishi's family and raised into a beautiful young girl. While carrying the burden of her parents' brutal murder, Shion decided to become a shogi kishi under the guidance of her adopted father, and has recently met 2 other joryu kishi, Saitou Ayumi and Nikaidou Saori. The three girls, although raised in completely different environments and with different ways of playing shogi, bonded together as friends and rivals. However, in the irregular, large scale tournament the Meijin started, the three face difficulties in their games and only Shion make it to the finals. Now, Shion dives into a match against the meijin's younger brother, Hani Satoru!

Introduction of the Main Characters

Saitou Ayumi

In order to help his health impaired mother, he cross-dressed in order to become a Joryu Kishi
A high school dropout.

Nikaidou Saori

Joryu 1st dan Fellow apprentice of the current Meijin Hani Raised in an affluent household
18 years old

Yasuoka Couple

Adopted Shion eight years ago after she lost her parents Now practically like real parents to her

Yasuoka Shion

Joryu Kishi She lost the power of speech at an infant when her parents were murdered She writes down all her expressions Only 14 years old

This story is a work of fiction. There is no relation to any real people, organizations, titles, etc.

37th
Move
Mind Reading

Wipe
Clack
THIS GIRL...
DOES SHE REMEMBER KAZUMI?

IF YOU CAN REALLY REMEMBER THINGS FROM 8 YEARS AGO, THEN REMEMBER ALREADY!
Gack
YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER!
IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST PLAYER'S KING TO 6-G,
SHE MOVED ROOK TO 5-B AND THEN HE PLAYED KING TO 7-H, HUH.
HMM...

IT'S TRUE, SOMEHOW HIS OVERALL SET UP HAS BECOME WELL ORDERED.
IN THE END, ISN'T SATORU-SAN DOING BETTER?
I THINK SO TOO.
HANI SATORU ...
IS IT POSSIBLE HE READ THIS FAR AHEAD RIGHT FROM HIS FIRST MOVE?
WHY AM I SO SAD?
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE TO PLAY SERIOUSLY NOW...

A WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER'S TEARS,
HOW MOVING.
Clack
BUT YOU DON'T NEED MY COMPASSION, DO YOU?
MY TRAGEDY IS SIMILAR TO YOURS.

SHION'S PLAYING
IS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM USUAL...
DEAR,
WHEN I WAS CLEANING SHION'S ROOM JUST NOW,
THIS WAS ON HER DESK.

IT'S-...
IF THIS GIRL RECOVERS HER MEMORY,
THEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A STEP CLOSER TO THE TRUTH OF KAZUMI'S DEATH.

IT WAS A MEMENTO OF YOUR LATE MOTHER, WASN'T IT?
.....
THE HALF YIN-YANG PENDANT.
I SAW IT...
I SAW IT IN A CRIME SCENE PHOTO.
ARE YOU NOT WEARING IT TODAY?
Sayegs

TIGHTLY CLASPED IN YOUR MOTHER'S HAND.
SHE ALWAYS MAKES SURE TO WEAR IT ON THE DAY OF AN IMPORTANT MATCH,
SO WHY DIDN'T SHE TODAY...?
I HOPE SHE CAN STILL PLAY PROPERLY WITHOUT IT.

SHE SHOULDN'T NEED TO RELY ON THAT AMULET FOREVER.
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE IT TO HER-
NO...
AND... SHION,
ISN'T THAT WEAK IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I'VE PLAYED WELL UNTIL NOW,
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT KIND OF SHOGI DO I HAVE TO PLAY FROM NOW ON?
SHION
WHEN YOU'RE LOST,
PLAY CALMLY, LIKE THE MOON.

GOLD TO 5-A?!
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD COME WITH A STRONGER ATTACK...
Click

AH, THAT'S IT, THIS IS GOOD,
SHION'S SHOGI STYLE IS ORIGINALLY DEFENSIVE, AFTER ALL.
LIKE THIS, THE FIRST PLAYER HAS TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE...

HMM... WHAT SHOULD I DO HERE?
I'VE ALREADY HARDENED MY OWN DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE...
I GUESS I SHOULD MAKE AN ATTACK THEN.
AND THOSE ARE WHAT SHAPED MY SHOGI INTO WHAT IT IS TODAY.
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS THAT YASUOKA PAPA TAUGHT ME FROM A YOUNG AGE...
I'M REMEMBERING,

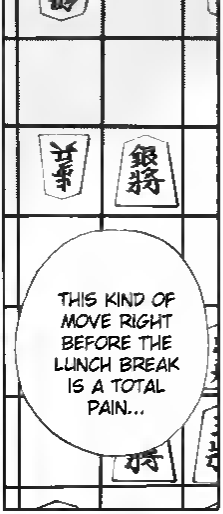
LISTEN TO THE PIECES' VOICES.
TRY CONCENTRATING WITH YOUR EARS, SHION,
AND THE PIECES WILL TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED.
Clack
THE SOUND JUST NOW,
WAS HESITANT.

Clack
SHOGI IS THE BOND BETWEEN ME AND MY FAMILY,
THAT WAS BUILT OVER THE PAST 8 YEARS.

IF SHE STARTS CONTROLLING THE GAME, THEN IT'LL GET UGLY...
SHE STARTED PLAYING WITH CONFIDENCE.
ANOTHER... 3 MINUTES.
HOW MANY MINUTES LEFT UNTIL LUNCH BREAK?
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT, SO I SHOULD JUST THINK CAREFULLY HERE...

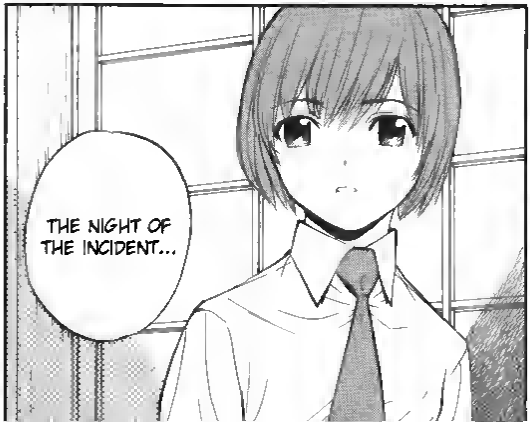
HE'LL PROBABLY MOVE EITHER HIS SILVER GENERAL OR ROOK TO 3-E.
I CAN CALMLY THINK OF MY PLAN OVER LUNCH.
Heh...
NAH, I REALLY SHOULD DO THIS IN-STEAD...
Click
PAWN DROP TO 6-E!
IT'S NOW THE LUNCH BREAK.
Grasp!

HE PROBABLY PLAYED IT JUST TO THROW A STICK INTO SHION'S PREDIC-TIONS.


THIS KIND OF MOVE RIGHT BEFORE THE LUNCH BREAK IS A TOTAL PAIN...

THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU,
OH YES, ONE MORE THING,

I WANT TO HAVE A RE-LAXING LUNCH, AFTER ALL.


THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT...

I HEARD YOU WERE FOUND CLINGING ONTO A SHOGI PIECE,
NOT YOUR MOTHER'S PENDANT THAT YOU TREASURE, BUT A SHOGI PIECE COVERED IN BLOOD.
MOREOVER, YOU HELD ONTO IT DEARLY FOR A NUMBER OF HOURS UNTIL YOU WERE FOUND.
WHY DIDN'T A SMART GIRL LIKE YOU GO AND CALL FOR HELP...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
WERE YOU DOING THEN, AND WITH WHOM EXACTLY?

SHION
...
LISTEN TO THE PIECES' VOICES...
AND THE PIECES WILL TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED.

SATORU ...?
YASUOKA PAPA ...
WASN'T THE ONE...
WHO TOLD ME THAT...?!

THAT GIRL...
WAS SHE CRYING FOR KAZUMI?
KAZUMI, IT WON'T BE LONG NOW...
I THINK WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.
IN ANY CASE,
IT APPEARS SHE REALLY DOES REMEMBER THE INCIDENT.

GO AHEAD, AYUMI... TRY READING SATORU'S THOUGHTS.
.....
HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL WIN THIS MATCH,
HE ALSO HAS SOME SPACE SINCE HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE, SO HE ISN'T NERVOUS,
HOWEVER... IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE HE CAN'T CONCENTRATE PROPERLY, SINCE HE IS WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
MMH...
NOT BAD.

FINDING THEM IS SIMPLE,
WHOEVER THEY ARE, EVERYONE HAS WEAKNESSES,

THE PROBLEM IS WHAT TO DO AFTERWARDS ...

ONLY THOSE WHO CAN RUTHLESSLY USE OTHER'S WEAKNESS,
ARE THE ONES WHO CAN WIN.

BROTH-
ER!
SEEMS LIKE A RATHER LONELY MEAL.
IS THAT...
!?
AH,
I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED YOU YET,

THIS IS MY AP-PRENTICE, SAITOU.
SAITOU AYUMI IS...
BROTHER'S APPRENTICE?!
THAT'S RIGHT...

LISTEN TO THE PIECES' VOICES...
PLAY CALMLY, LIKE THE MOON.
THAT NIGHT,
I WAS TAUGHT SHOGI BY THE MAN WHO MURDERED MY MOTHER AND FATHER...
NO...
Tremble
Tremble
Tremble
I SHOULDN'T DIG UP ANY MORE OF THOSE MEMO-RIES!

IF I REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE...!
SHION...
SHION...

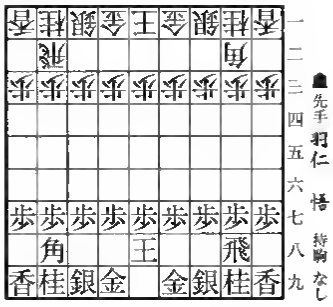
IT WASN'T WITH YASUOKA PAPA ...
SINCE 8 YEARS AGO,

MY SHOGI WAS
MY BOND WITH THE MURDER-ER.
37th Move
END

対局CHECK！

棋譜・解説　かとりまさる

（第1図は ☗5八王まで）



（第2図は ☖同飛まで）

過去に捕らわれているのはどちら？　紫音と悟の準決勝！

羽仁悟が指したのは初手☗5八王。

なんじゃこりゃー、ひどい初手だ、とお思いの方も多いでしょうが、実際に第1図をよくご覧ください。

けっして、これで作戦勝ちということではありませんが、居飛車党の人でも中飛車にしたくなるのが、この一手の大きな所。

紫音はなんの戦型でも指しこなせますが、得意なのは居飛車。と、すれば、羽仁悟が初手に指した一手もまんざら悪くないということです。

最近流行の将棋ソフトに勝てない、とお思いの方、定跡をハズして指してみたらいかがでしょう。データに入ってない手は、コンピュータも悩むはず。

ちなみに、一番悪い初手は☗5八金、でしょうネ。これをやったら、かなり手損しますので。羽仁悟の挑発の一手☗5八王に、紫音は振り飛車で戦いを挑みます。

第2図をご覧ください。

初手から10手ほど進んだところです。

皆さんだったら、どう指しますか？

見た瞬間、この一手だろう、と☗6七王と思った方は、実力は高段者級。

羽仁悟は、羽仁名人と幼い頃指していたので、こういう筋のいい一手は、すんなり指せるのです。

第2図で☗5七歩、と受けるようでは、まだまだ実力不足。

アマでも高段者になりたい方、ライバルになかなか勝てないという方は、新聞の将棋欄を見て、毎日一手だけでも自分とプロとの指し手の違いを見比べて勉強すると実力がアップしますヨ。

紫音は☗5七銀右からの変化手順を中心に読んでいたのですが、☗6七王と悟に指され、読みをハズされたことに驚きますが、まだまだここは序盤戦。

どんな変化になるか、お楽しみに！

Hani Makoto

Meijin

Hani Satoru

Hani Makoto's younger brother
A successful entrepreneur

38th Move

The Route to Checkmate

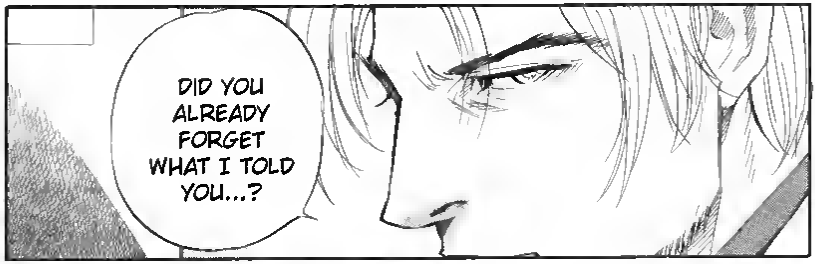
WHY DIDN'T YOU CHOOSE ME?!
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE HIM...?
BROTHER, YOU ALWAYS LEAVE ME BEHIND AND GO FORWARD ON YOUR OWN.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
WHAT, SATORU...

THUMP
NO!
YOU ALSO WANTED TO BE MY APPRENTICE?
EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS, THE TWO OF US DID IT TOGETHER!!
DIDN'T THE TWO OF US GET STRONGER TOGETHER?

ARE YOU REALLY SAYING THAT?
AFTER LEAVING YOU,
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT MY LIFE'S BEEN LIKE...?
ONE SUCH AS YOU WHO'S SO CAUGHT UP IN THE PAST HAS NO IDEA.
WE'RE NOT KIDS PLAYING GAMES ANY-MORE...

THAT WHICH I STRIVE FOR NOW IS TRUE STRENGTH ALONE.

IS IT FINE IF I TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE?
MEIJIN...


DID YOU ALREADY FORGET WHAT I TOLD YOU...?

I'LL BE IN THE OBSERVATION ROOM, SO MAKE YOUR WAY OVER QUICKLY.
MEH, IT'S FINE...
THANK YOU.
.....

DURING 8 YEARS,
IT WAS NEVER ERASED FROM WITHIN ME ...
EVEN THOUGH PAPA AND MAMA YASUOKA TREATED ME SO KINDLY,
MY BOND WITH THE KILLER.
Tremble
Tremble Tremble

IS MY SHOGI
SUL-LIED IN BLOOD?
Patte

SAITOU-KUN?!
Haa
Haa
Haa
THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME, SO ALL I COULD GET YOU WAS BREAD AND SOME HOT CHOCOLATE...
SKE-SKE-SKETCH... BUBUBU-BU-... SKETCH BOOK...!
Panic
Panic
SORRY FOR SURPRISING YOU!
AYUMI-KUN...

Eat
JUST LISTEN AS YOU EAT OKAY?
Melon Bread
YOU'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO, SO YOU'D BETTER EAT WELL.
Om nom nom

Squish
SORRY, SORRY.
Some hot chocolate?
Cough! Cough!
I GAVE YOU ANOTHER SURPRISE SO SOON.
THE TRUTH IS, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO NOTICED I WAS CROSS DRESSING AS A WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER,
BUT THE MEIJIN WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT TOO, I THINK.

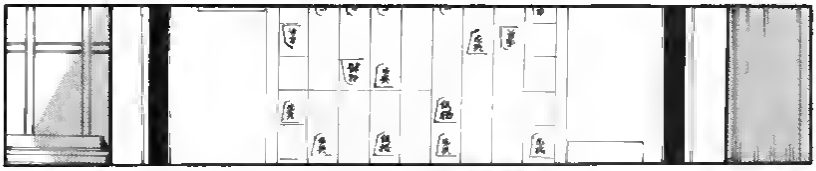
I'VE... BECOME HANI-MEIJIN'S APPRENTICE.

STARTING THIS SPRING, I'LL JOIN THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION AND AIM TO BECOME A PRO.
I SEE.
PRO...
SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY AGAINST AYUMI-KUN ANYMORE...

I FEAR I'LL FALL OUT OF TOUCH FOR A WHILE...
BUT I'M SURE THE DAY WE FACE EACH OTHER WILL COME AGAIN SOON.
UNTIL THEN, I'LL PLAY MY SHOGI.
SQUEEZE
SO...

SO THEN,
I'LL BE GOING ON AHEAD.
SHION, PLEASE PLAY YOUR OWN SHOGI TOO!

YOUR BREAK WILL COME TO AN END SOON,
DO YOUR BEST IN YOUR GAME!



!?

I'LL GO MAKE SURE SHE'S ALRIGHT.

IS SHION PLANNING TO STAY IN THE ROOM THROUGHOUT THE BREAK...?
I wonder if she'll be fine.

KOBAYASHI-SAN, WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
THE AFTER-NOON PART OF THE MATCH IS ABOUT TO START, YOU KNOW?
HANI-MEIJIN?!
YOU CAME SPECIFI-CALLY TO SEE THE MATCH?
HANI...
I WAS WON-DERING WHO WOULD BE MY OPPONENT IN THE FINALS.
AND, THERE WAS A SMALL MATTER I WANTED TO ATTEND TO...

WHO IS GOING TO WIN?
.....
AT THIS POINT, THEY'VE BOTH READ AHEAD TO TRADING THEIR BISHOPS,
THE REAL FIGHT COMES AFTER THAT...
THE QUESTION IS, HOW WILL IT CHANGE AFTER THIS BREAK...?
AH, YOU FINALLY CAME.
SORRY, MEIJIN...

!!
THIS IS MY AP-PRENTICE, SAITOU.
HANI-MEI JIN TOOK ON AN APPREN-TICE?!
.....
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF US.

TODAY'S NOTATION IS STRANGELY EXHAUSTING,
THERE'S TOO MUCH TENSION IN THAT GAME...
!

I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYERS, BUT THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND THIS GIRL IS UNIQUE.
IT SEEMS TO DRAW IN A PERSON'S FEELINGS.
AH!
Thomp
SORRY...!
WERE YOU ABLE TO RELAX DURING THE BREAK?
HANI-SAN'S ATMOSPHERE IS ALSO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE THE LUNCH BREAK.

IT'S TIME TO RESTART THE MATCH.
SHE'S SMILING?!
Whoosh
BISHOP TRADE, AS EXPECTED HUH...
SHE'S JUST PUTTING UP A STRONG FRONT,
THE ONE WHO WILL READ FURTHER AND WIN IS ME!
Click
Click

WHAT?!
Click
THIS IS A PUZZLE,
WHICH PIECE SHOULD HE USE TO CAPTURE IT?
PAWN TO 3-G!
飛車
THAT'S QUITE A POINTED PAWN...

WHAT DO I DO?
I CAN TAKE IT WITH THE SILVER GENERAL, THE KNIGHT OR THE ROOK...
OR, I CAN LET THE ROOK ESCAPE.
ONE HOUR HAS ELAPSED FOR HANI, AMATEUR.
BUT...!
Click
SO THIS IS THE MOVE SHE THOUGHT OF DURING THE BREAK...
CAPTURE WITH THE ROOK...

IN THAT CASE...
Clack
SHE MOVED HER BISHOP TO 2-H WITHOUT HESITATING...
SO THIS IS ALL AS YOU ANTICIPATED?
WHAT NOW? I CAN'T MAKE A MISTAKE HERE...

IS HE PLAYING VERY CAUTIOUSLY?
ISN'T THIS UNUSUAL?
FOR SATO-RU-SAN TO TAKE SO MUCH TIME ON EACH OF HIS MOVES,
HE'S JUST PANICKING...
PROMOTED PAWN TO 3-C.
Clack
?

I DON'T THINK THAT... IT'S A BAD MOVE,
BUT...
EH?!
UH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS MOVE, SAORI?
AND YOU?
MMH...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WONDER IF ROOK TO 2-G WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER.
FOR AN ATTACK, I THINK IT'S A BIT SHALLOW.

CLICK
WE'RE EVEN AGAIN... NO, IF ANYTHING, SHE SHOULD BE AT AN IMPASSE...
PAWN TO 5-G?!
THIS IS ALSO A GOOD MOVE!
ISN'T SHION IN A BETTER POSITION NOW?
SHIT...! THERE WAS ANOTHER PAWN SHE COULD PLAY LIKE THAT...?

THAT GIRL IS ALWAYS CHANGING,
BECOMING NOTICEABLY STRONGER IN EACH OF HER MATCHES.
YOUR MIND IS WEAK, STILL TRAPPED IN THE DISTANT PAST.
IN COMPARISON, SATORU...

THE REASON I'M AT A DISADVANTAGE IS BECAUSE OF MY OWN MISTAKE,
IF I MOVE PROMOTED PAWN TO 7-C, THEN SHE'LL CAPTURE WITH HER SILVER GENERAL...
THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S STRONG!
Click
ROOK TO 3-B...

SATORU PROBABLY EXPECTS HIS OPPONENT TO NAIVELY PLAY PAWN TO 7-B,
BUT IF IT'S SHION...!
HOW WILL YOU COUNTER THAT?
Dark

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, SATORU...?
ROOK TO 7-B!!

ROOK TO 7-B...
SHE RESPONDED NOT WITH HER PAWN BUT WITH HER ROOK!
WE'RE LEAVING.
!
YES, SIR!

THE MATCH TO DECIDE THE FINALS WILL BEGIN AT 10:00, BUT THERE WILL BE AN INTERVIEW FOR THE NEWSPAPERS AT 9:40...
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE INCONVENIENCE, BUT COULD YOU MAKE IT HERE BY 9:30?
MEIJIN!
THANK YOU.
9:30, I'LL BE HERE.
I'D LIKE YOU TO DEPOSIT ALL THE PRIZE MONEY IN THIS ACCOUNT...
IF I HAPPEN TO WIN IN THIS TOURNAMENT...
ACTUALLY, THERE'S ONE THING I WANTED YOU TO HELP ME WITH TOO,

!!
SAITOU... AYUMI?!
THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH MY OWN BANK ACCOUNT, YOU SEE, SO IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY THING.
SO CAN YOU MANAGE THAT, JUST THIS ONE TIME?
SURE, BUT, I MEAN...
YOU KNOW IT'S 30,000 ,000 YEN, RIGHT?!
YES,
ONLY IF I WIN... THOUGH.

I'M GOING BACK TO THE APARTMENT.
AYUMI, YOU CAN COME SOME OTHER TIME.
WAIT! MY CLOTHES AND WALLET ARE STILL AT YOUR PLACE...
YOU CAN JUST PICK THOSE UP NEXT TIME. YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME SPARE CHANGE ON YOU.
YES, SIR...
I USED TO DO THAT A LOT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER TOO.
AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE TRAIN FARE, YOU CAN JUST WALK HOME...

YOU CLAIM I'M A PRISONER OF MY PAST, BUT IN THAT CASE, SHION SHOULD BE THE SAME!
SO WHY...?!
HOW...
HOW IS SHE ABLE TO PLAY THESE MOVES?
IS THIS HER TRUE STRENGTH ?!

YASUOKA PAPA? OR THE CRIMINAL?
IT'S PRECISELY WHEN YOU'RE PUSHING YOUR OPPONENT, THAT YOU HAVE TO FOCUS YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW TO RECEIVE THEIR MOVES...
WHO WAS IT WHO TAUGHT ME THAT?
SHION,
PLEASE PLAY YOUR OWN SHOGI TOO!
Clench
I AM ALIVE, HERE AND NOW...
THAT'S RIGHT...
WHOEVER MY OPPONENT IS, WHATEVER THE GAME IS,

THIS IS MY SHOGI!
38th Move
END

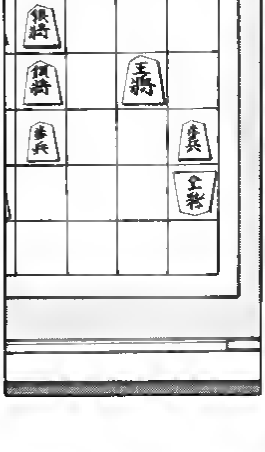
39th Move
Weakling

JUST WHERE ARE YOU TELLING ME A LITTLE GIRL LIKE THIS FINDS SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?
TRUE STRENGTH...
SO THAT'S IT...
Gulp

AYUMI CAME HERE, DIDN'T HE...
KUKUKU KU...
THE STRENGTH OF A MELON BREAD, IS IT?
Click

I WILL NOT...
LOSE TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

SATORU-SAN, SO YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE KING TO ENTER THE CASTLE.



YASUOKA
SHUNICHI
SHOGI

HOW IS...
SHION DOING?
CRRK
MH? YEAH...
SHE'S PLAYING WELL.
DON'T WORRY, ALL IS WELL,
SHION IS OUR DAUGHTER, AFTER ALL.

YES!
clack
YOU'RE RE-TREATING HERE?!
clack
!!
SHE MOVED PAWN TO 1-D...

LIKE THIS, IF SHE MOVES HER SILVER GENERAL TO 2-E AND CHECKS HIS KING, THEN SHE CAN TAKE THE DRAGON...
CAPTURED WITH HIS DRAGON?!
DESPITE THAT, HE STILL AIMS TO ENTER THE KING?
EXCUSE ME... WHAT DOES 'ENTER THE KING' MEAN?
IT MEANS TO CHASE THE ENEMY KING INTO ITS DEFENSIVE FORMATION.
AN ENTERED KING IS DIFFICULT TO CHECKMATE.

AND HER MIND MUST BE EXHAUSTED BY NOW...
SHION DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME REMAINING.
MIND?
AS OPPOSED TO HER BODY, YOU MEAN?
ARE CONSTANTLY SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH NO CLEAR ANSWER.
SHOGI PLAYERS, FOR MANY HOURS DURING THEIR MATCHES,

NOT TO MENTION WITH ALL THEIR CONCENTRATION...
SATORU...
THE RAMEN'S READY.
SATORU!

IT'S JUST BEAN SPROUTS AGAIN...
JUST A SINGLE SLICE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I GAVE YOU A SLICE OF HAM TOO.
Don't Complain!
LOOK,
I'LL GIVE YOU MY PIECE TOO, SO BEAR IT.
UWAH
Thank you!

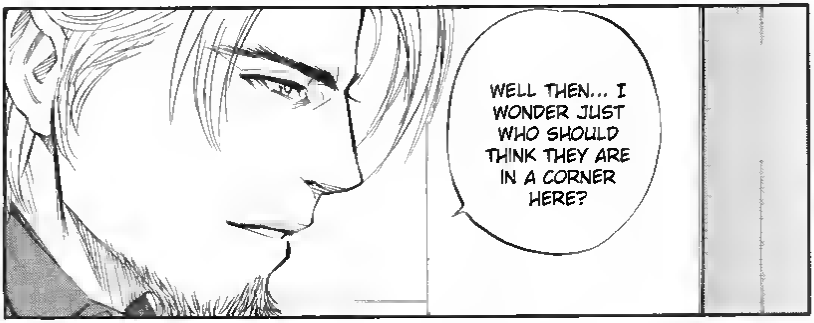
Ugh...
IN RETURN, IF YOU LOSE THE NEXT GAME, THEN SATORU IS ON LAUNDRY DUTY FOR TODAY.
ALRIGHT, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE AGAIN TODAY!

THAT'S RIGHT...
I SET UP THIS TOURNAMENT JUST SO THAT I COULD PLAY AGAINST MY OLDER BROTHER ONCE MORE.
Heh...

I CANNOT LOSE HERE!
CLICK
PROMOTED SILVER TO 7-C!
SHION-SAN'S KING! IT'S COMPLETELY SURROUND-ED...

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY NEXT?
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT... THIS IS THE END...?
THE ONLY OPTION IS TO CHECKMATE THE OPPONENT FIRST...
IS SHE GOING TO BE CHECKMATED LIKE THIS?
Promoted
Silver to 7 C

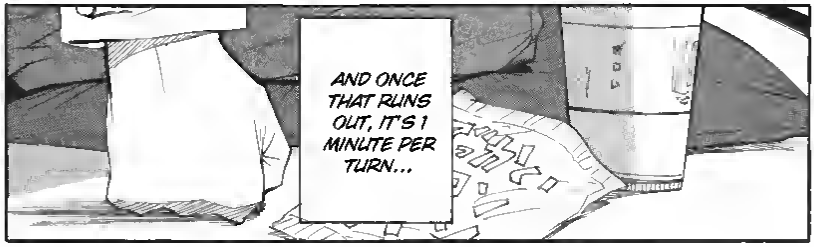
SHION... THIS IS THE REAL SHOWDOWN.


WELL THEN... I WONDER JUST WHO SHOULD THINK THEY ARE IN A CORNER HERE?

EVEN IF I RECEIVE WITH GOLD TO 7-A, I'LL BE IN A BIND IF HE MOVES LANCE TO 6-C...

I HAVE TO CHECK-MATE HIM,
OR ELSE I'LL LOSE!
HOW MUCH TIME REMAIN-ING?
AND YASUO-KA-SAN?
HANI, AMATEUR HAS 40 MIN-UTES,
3 MINUTES ...
REMAIN-ING.

3 MIN-
UTES.
MY
WIN...


AND ONCE
THAT RUNS
OUT, IT'S 1
MINUTE PER
TURN...

WILL I BE
ABLE TO
CAPTURE
THIS KING
IN THAT
TIME?

SHION
I'LL BE,
GOING ON AHEAD.
IN THAT MOMENT, AYUMI-KUN SHOWED ME THE FUTURE,
THE FUTURE OF BEING A PRO PLAYER...

SO I
WILL BE-
LIEVE IN
MYSELF!!
SILVER
GENERAL
TO 1-D?!

IS THIS HER LAST DITCH EFFORT?
OR HAS SHE FOUND A WAY TO TURN THINGS AROUND...?
Clack
NO, THAT CAN'T BE THE CASE...
I SHOULD CAPTURE THAT ONE!
Clack
HORSE TO 4-G?
I CAN ALSO RECEIVE THIS ONE WITH NO PROBLEM.
Clack

HE MOVED PAWN TO 3-F!
THIS IS GOOD.
LIKE THIS, I CAN...
SHION-SAN IS DOING REALLY WELL, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S BEING CHASED BY THE CLOCK.
IT'S A CUTTHROAT BATTLE.
YES... BUT SHE'S STILL IN A BIND.
IF HER ATTACK GETS CUT OFF, SATORU-SAN CAN ATTACK IMMEDIATELY.

ARE YOU FINISHED ALREADY?
.....
THE END IS DISAPPOINT-ING, ISN'T IT...
!!
Point
!?
SAORI-SAN?

DAMN IT...!
THAT PAWN THAT HE PLAYED TO 3-F...

WITH MY CURRENTLY HELD PIECES, UNLESS I PLAY PAWNS IN 3 DIFFERENT WAYS...
BECAUSE OF THIS PAWN, I CAN'T PLAY MY ATTACKING PAWN!

I CAN'T CHECK-MATE SHION'S KING!!

WHILE SHION'S HELD PIECES ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO CAPTURE SATO-RU'S KING...
THE GAME HAS TURNED AROUND.
I SEE, HIS PAWN TO 3-F MEANS THAT HE CAN'T CHECKMATE HER WITH JUST TWO PAWNS,
I REMEMBER PLAYING A GAME LIKE THIS BEFORE,
WHEN WAS IT?
I COULD NEVER WIN...
THE MOMENT THAT I THOUGHT I HAD WON,
I KILLED MY OWN GAME WITH MY OWN MOVE...

IT CAN'T BE...
EH?
SATORU... THE RAMEN'S READY.
HAH, AMATEUR, YOU'VE USED UP YOUR TIME,
FROM NOW ON, EACH OF YOUR MOVES MUST BE PLAYED WITHIN ONE MINUTE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? SATORU-SAN HAS STOPPED MAKING ANY MOVES...
30 SECONDS,
40 SECONDS...

WHEN DID TIME STOP MOVING FOR ME?
WHEN KAZUMI...
WHEN I WAS ABANDONED BY BROTHER?
WHEN MOTHER DIED?
WHEN FATHER DIED?
IT'S PROBABLY ALL OF THEM.
DIED...
IF INSTEAD...
I HAD GROWN STRONGER WHEN I LOST THEM...

WHERE SHION FINDS HER STRENGTH.
SO THAT'S,
AND WHERE I...
BECOME WEAK...
1.....
2.....
FI-...
FIFTY SEC-ONDS...

3
4
IT'S MY DEFEAT...

SATORU-SAN ADMITS DEFEAT!
DEFEAT,
SHION... WON.
IS YASUOKA-SAN REALLY STRONG
.....
HOW DOES IT FEEL FOR THE MEIJIN'S YOUNGER BROTHER TO LOSE AGAINST A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL?
HANI-SAN, PLEASE TELL US YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THE MATCH!
AH! HEY...!

SHION-SAN...
HANI-SAN?!
PLEASE SHARE A WORD WITH US!
PERHAPS,
I WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU FIND THE KILLER.
!?
Pull
HEY YOU...!
EVEN THOUGH YOU LOST, YOU'RE STILL GONNA HARASS HER?!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT,
HE'S NOT HARASS-ING...
SHION...
THIS MAN REALLY MEANS IT.
HUH...
SATORU REALLY SAID THAT?

AND... WHO WAS THERE AT THE TIME?
LET'S SEE, THERE WERE AFFILIATES OF THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION,
THE YOUNG ONE APPRENTICED TO YASUOKA 8TH DAN'S, NIKAIDOU-SAN AND A NUMBER OF REPORTERS.
I SEE, THANK YOU...
PLEASE TELL ME OF ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
OH... AND YASUOKA SHION, OF COURSE.
.....

SHION REALLY IS AMAZING,
THE STRENGTH OF SPIRIT TO SEIZE VICTORY FROM THAT SITUATION...
AND NEXT IS FINALLY...
Trung...
WHO IS CALLING AT THIS HOUR?
Beep
AM01:20
Hani Mejin
!?

AYUMI...
COME TO MY APARTMENT RIGHT NOW.
UP
HELLO! THIS IS SAITOU!
RIGHT NOW?!
BUT...
THE TRAIN?
YEAH... THEY'D HAVE STOPPED SERVICE BY NOW, SO?

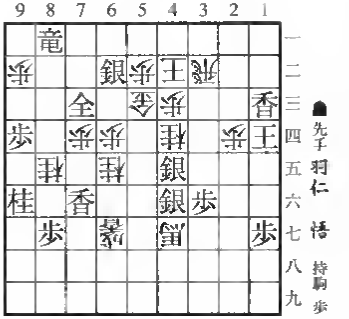
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU,
IF YOU CAN'T GET THE TRAIN, THEN WALK...
39th Move
END

対局CHECK！

棋譜・解説　かとりまさる

（第1図は ■ 同王まで）

（第2図は □ 4二王まで）



まさに人生をかけた対局。決勝へ進んだのは！

二転三転しつつも自分のペースに持ち込み優勢だと思った悟は、気の緩みが指し手に現れました。

逆に言うと紫音の強さはそこで相手が油断した瞬間を見逃さないこと。中学生ぐらいの時が一番強くなる時期でいろんな事を吸収してプロらしさを身につけます。両親が殺害された現場で、一人将棋の駒を手にしながら生きていた紫音。それをトラウマに感じるよりも、追い込まれたときに本当の自分を発揮する不思議な力を持っているのでしょう。

第1図をご覧ください。

ここで後手番の紫音は□4七馬とします。そして先手の悟が■3六歩と受け、□1二飛と紫音が自陣に飛車を打ち、詰めろ逃れの詰めろ、をかけます。

以下、■1三香□3二飛■8一飛成□4二王と進んだのが第2図となります。

あと1枚、駒があれば……。

二歩が禁じ手というルールさえなければ悟が勝っていたのですが、第2図から■5一飛成としても残念ながら詰みません。

最後の悪あがき、をできる余裕もなく、ただただ唇を噛みしめ、悔しさを飲み込む結果となってしまった悟です。

プロとアマの差。

一手の違いを瞬時に気がつけることでしょう。

完璧、コンピュータ的であり、人の行動やクセを読み、弱点のなさそうな羽仁名人に、可愛い紫音が、運命の将棋の神童としてどこまでがんばれるか、注目して下さいネ。

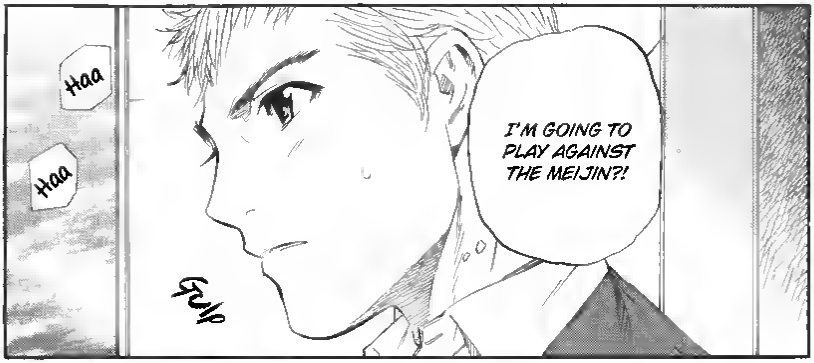
Hoshimi Kenji = Apprentice to Shion's father, Yasuoka 2dan. 3rd Dan in the Shogi League.

Kobayashi = Employee of Digital Phones Inc., sponsor of the Open Tournament.

40th Move

Time

Haa
Haa
Haa
WHILE WATCHING THE MATCH YESTERDAY, I SUDDENLY WANTED TO PLAY.
IT'S THESE TIMES WHEN HAVING AN APPRENTICE COMES IN HANDY.


Haa
Haa
Gulp
I'M GOING TO PLAY AGAINST THE MEIJIN?!

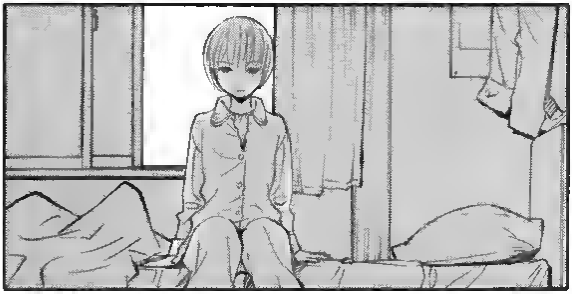
WHAT'S THE MATTER... YOU WANT TO REST A MOMENT?

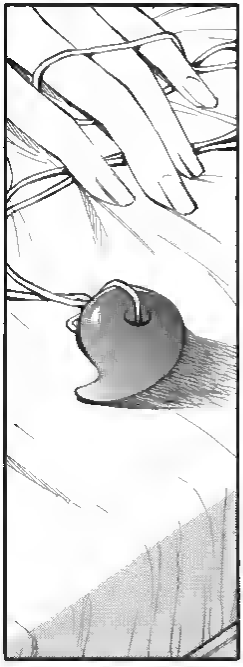
Tense!
NO! I'M FINE, LET'S PLAY NOW!!

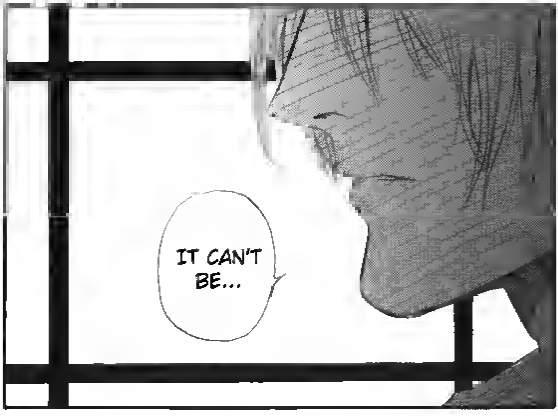
THE WINNER WILL BE DECIDED BY THE BEST OUT OF THREE MATCHES.
OKAY.
AYUMI, YOU HAVE 10 MINUTES,
I'LL HAVE 1 MINUTE PER MOVE FROM THE BEGINNING.
BUT IT'S BORING IF WE JUST PLAY FOR FUN,
HOW ABOUT THIS, THE LOSER WILL DO ANY ONE THING THAT THE WINNER ASKS OF HIM...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ALRIGHT.
GOOD...
YOU CAN GO FIRST FOR THE FIRST GAME, AYUMI.
LET IT BE A GOOD GAME.
WITH THE CONDITIONS ON THE LOSER,
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATCH!
Thump
Thump
A ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE MEIJIN... AND ON AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD...!
THIS CHANCE WON'T COME AGAIN...
I HAVE TO THROW EVERYTHING I HAVE AT HIM IN EVERY MOVE!!

Clack






IT CAN'T BE...

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "IT CAN'T BE..."?
HIS EYES LOOKED REALLY SAD.
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO
FIGHT HANI MEIJIN PROPERLY LIKE THIS.
Class test
17
23
Tournament Finals!!
24
Interview
15:00
25
EVEN THOUGH I WON, I'M NOT HAPPY...

Clack

MMH...
THIS IS MY LOSS, ISN'T IT...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D WIN RIGHT FROM THE FIRST MATCH...
I THOUGHT I HAD THE ADVAN-TAGE... BUT STILL,
I WON AGAINST HANI-MEI-JIN...
Clench
!!

I WILL GO FIRST FOR OUR NEXT GAME.
AS THE LOSER,
Clack
Tremble
Tremble
Tremble
SHIT!
I CAN'T STOP SHAKING!
CALM DOWN... MY SHOGI CAN WORK, EVEN AGAINST THE MEIJIN.
I'LL RUSH THROUGH THE SECOND MATCH ON THIS SAME IMPETUS!
.....

WOAH, THIS IS PRETTY BIG.
Shogi Open Tournament
Challenger
The middle school girl will finally face the Meijin!
AH... EVEN ON THIS FORUM, but they're all just gossip and rumour?
click click
IT'S EVEN A HOT TOPIC ON THE NET.
THAT'S A BIG DEAL, FOR SURE.
A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL AND THE ACTING MEIJIN ARE ABOUT TO FACE OFF IN AN OFFICIAL MATCH.
YOU SHOULD SEE THIS POST!
YOKOYA-MA-SAN, PLEASE COME HERE!
HM?!

Name: Unknown

Last Edited 04: 38: 24

Isn't the identity of the killer of Yasuoka Shion's parents really Hani Satoru?

I KEPT ON REMEMBERING MY BROTHER...
Beep!
GEEZ, WHAT A BUSY PAIR OF BROTH-ERS...
TRRRR-RING
Hani Satoru

HELLO,
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
NAH, I'M AT WORK ALREADY, ANYWAY.
SO?
ARE YOU FRUSTRATED AND UNABLE TO SLEEP BECAUSE YOU LOST AGAINST THAT GIRL?
HAHA...
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK YOU,
THE PHOTOS OF THE SCENE THAT YOU RECEIVED THE OTHER TIME OF YASUOKA SHION'S PARENTS AT THE SCENE AFTER BEING MURDERED...

COULD YOU PRINT A SET OF COPIES AND SEND THEM ALL TO ME?

MY DEFEAT...
IN THE END, IT WAS FAR BEYOND MY ABILITY...
THAT'S NOT MUCH LIKE YOU,
AFTER STARTING THE SECOND GAME, YOU DIDN'T MAKE ANY GOOD MOVES.
.....

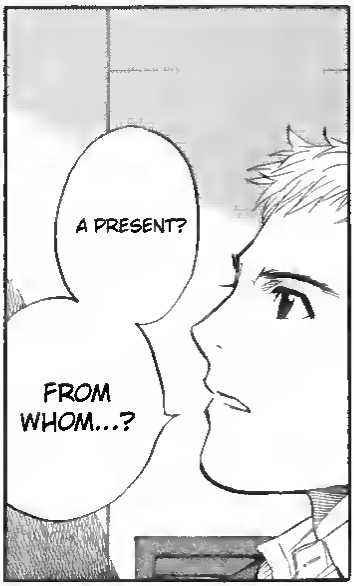
IT'S BECAUSE YOU FELT SO HAPPY AT WINNING THE FIRST MATCH, RIGHT?
Huh!
BOW
MY SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR PLAYING SUCH SPINELESS SHOGI!
IF YOU LOST TO ME RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING,
YOU WOULD HAVE RESTRAINED YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND PLAYED STRONGER SHOGI.
IF YOU LOOK JUST AT THE RESULTS, IT'S 1 WIN, 2 LOSSES,
BUT IN TRUTH, THE SAITOU IN FRONT OF ME NOW DOESN'T POSE ANY CHALLENGE TO ME...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YOU HAVE TO CONTROL YOUR OPPONENT'S FEELINGS AND GAMEPLAY... SOMETIMES EVEN THEIR LIFESTYLE.

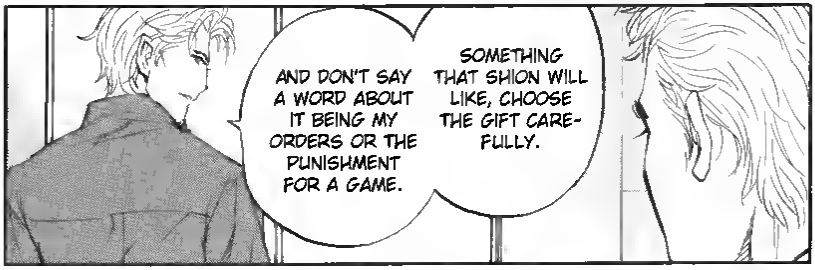
THAT... IS REAL POWER...

Flinch
WELL THEN...
THE LOSER PROMISED TO DO ANYTHING THE WINNER ASKED, DIDN'T HE?
NO NEED TO TENSE UP LIKE THAT,
HEH... I JUST INTEND TO USE YOU AS A PAGE BOY.

TAKE THAT...
AND, HMM... TAKE IT TO SATORU'S PLACE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW AT 7PM.
THE ENVELOPE ON TOP OF THE TABLE THERE,
THE ADDRESS IS UNDER THE ENVELOPE.
Minato
Roppon
Hill
25
AND ONE MORE THING.
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
THAT'S THE DAY BEFORE THE FINALS.
BEFORE YOU DELIVER THAT TO SATORU,
BUY A PRESENT FOR YASUOKA SHION.

FROM YOU, OF COURSE!


A PRESENT?
FROM WHOM...?


AND DON'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT BEING MY ORDERS OR THE PUNISHMENT FOR A GAME.
SOMETHING THAT SHION WILL LIKE, CHOOSE THE GIFT CAREFULLY.

Knock
YOU FOOL, I'M NOT TEASING YOU.

MEIJIN...
ARE YOU JUST HAVING A LAUGH BY TEASING ME?

I ADMIT...
I DO FIND THIS FUN THOUGH.
.....
CONGRTULATIONS!
GOOD LUCK AT THE FINALS!
Happy Birthday!
CONGRA-TULATIONS SHION!!
HEY, HEY,
WE DON'T GET THE CHANCE SO OFTEN, SO LET'S SAY WE GO AND HAVE A BLAST AFTER CLASSES!

WE CAN HAVE A PARTY AFTER THAT THEN!
BUT TOMORROW YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT MATCH, I GUESS.
OR... I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT,
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HAVING A BIG PARTY TO CELEBRATE BOTH YOUR BIRTHDAY AND YOUR VICTORY, SHION?
GOOD LUCK AT YOUR MATCH TOMORROW, SHION!
I'LL MAKE SURE WE CAN ALL GET TOGETHER SOMETIME NEXT WEEK!
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
.....

YASUOKA
SHINJI
SACHIKO
SHION
IS THAT SO...
AT 3 PM, YOU SAY,
I GOT IT, WE'LL BE WAITING.
THAT WAS INSPECTOR YOKOYAMA?

IT SEEMS HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE INCIDENT.
.....

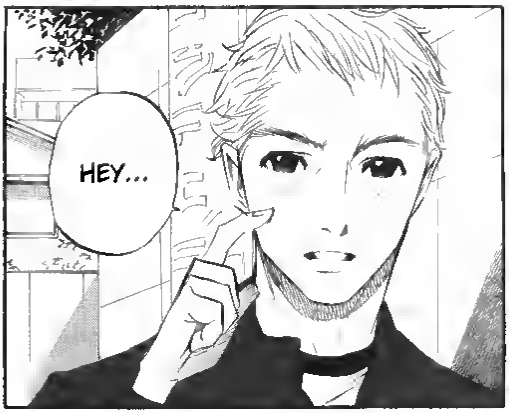
THAT'S RIGHT... HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO DROP BY.

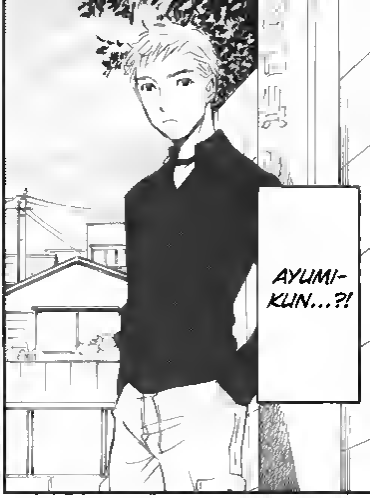
IF I DO THAT, THEN SHE'LL COME HOME A BIT LATER.
I'LL SEND HER A TEXT MESSAGE WITH SOME GROCERIES TO PICK UP FOR DINNER THEN.

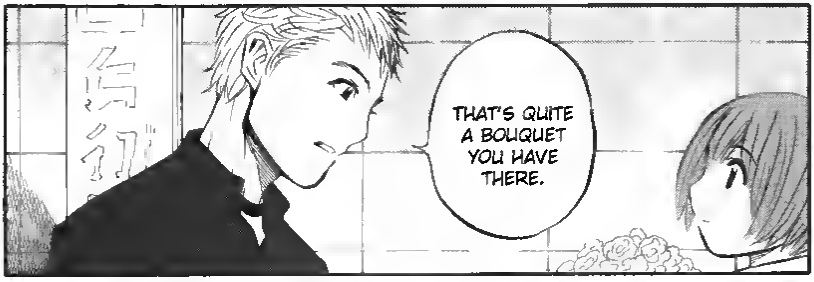
IT'S JUST BEFORE THE FINALS MATCH THOUGH, SO I DON'T WANT SHION TO HEAR ABOUT IT JUST YET.

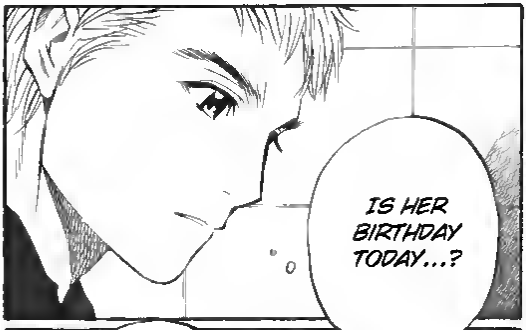
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU THEN... SORRY ABOUT THAT.

PERHAPS, I WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU FIND THE KILLER...
SATORU-SAN WILL HELP ME...?
NO, I HAVE TO FOCUS ON THE MATCH TOMORROW!
EVERYONE'S CHEERING ME ON...
CONGRTULATIONS!
GOOD LUCK AT THE FINALS!

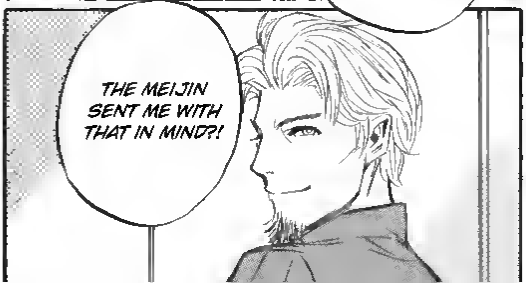

HEY...


AYUMI-KUN...?!


THAT'S QUITE A BOUQUET YOU HAVE THERE.


IS HER BIRTHDAY TODAY...?

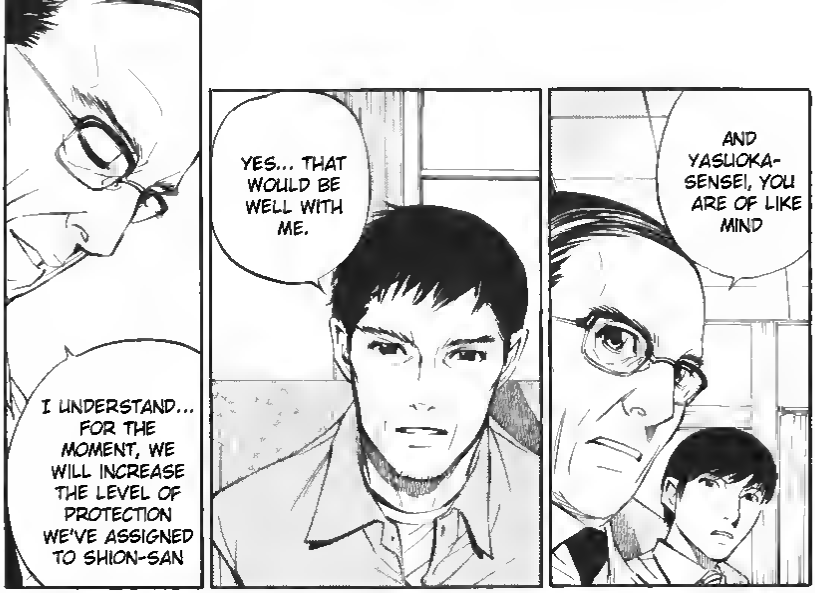
Happy Birthday!

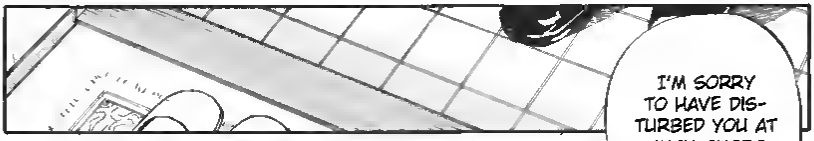

THE MEIJIN SENT ME WITH THAT IN MIND?!

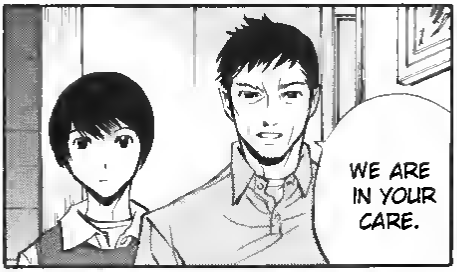
Inbox
1 New Mail Mama
MOTHER?
Beep!
Thump...
Unknown
Isn't the identity of the killer of Yasuoka Shion's parents really Hani Satoru?
IS THIS TRUE?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE FOR THAT...
OF COURSE, IT'S PROBABLY JUST A PRANK.

CONSULT?
BUT, THE CONTENTS ARE WHAT THEY ARE, SO WE THOUGHT TO CONSULT YOU...
IF YOU WERE TO GIVE US A FORMAL INVESTIGATION REQUEST,
IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE VARIOUS ACTS OF HARASSMENT TOWARDS SHION-SAN.
THEN THAT MEANS, YOU THINK...
YES... EIGHT YEARS AGO, HE WAS FREQUENTLY IMPLICATED IN RELATION TO THE INCIDENT.
THEN I INTEND TO ASK MR. HANI SATORU, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, TO SHARE HIS CIRCUMSTANCES DURING THE INCIDENT.

UNTIL SHION...
COULDN'T WE PERHAPS REQUEST THAT YOU WAIT UNTIL SHION SAYS SOMETHING HERSELF?
IF THIS POST IS TRUE...
THEN I BELIEVE SHION SHOULD HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING, HAVING PLAYED AGAINST HIM A FEW TIMES NOW, AND WILL TELL US.
SO, FOR NOW... I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE IN HER AND CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER HER.


I UNDERSTAND... FOR THE MOMENT, WE WILL INCREASE THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION WE'VE ASSIGNED TO SHION-SAN
YES... THAT WOULD BE WELL WITH ME.
AND YASUOKA-SENSEI, YOU ARE OF LIKE MIND


I'M SORRY TO HAVE DISTURBED YOU AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE.


WE ARE IN YOUR CARE.

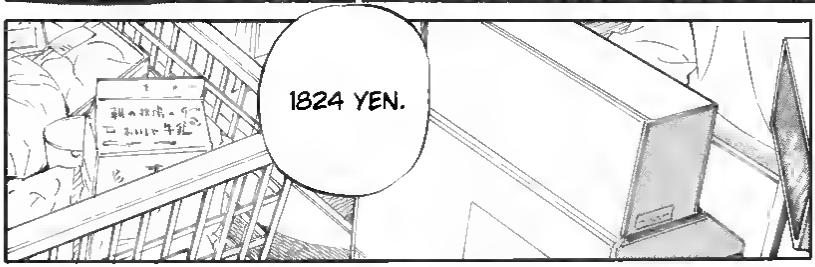
OF COURSE, THE STANDARD INVESTIGATION WILL CONTINUE AS BEFORE.

TOMORROW IS THE BIG FINALS MATCH OF THE TOURNAMENT, ISN'T IT?

IT SEEMS WE'VE ALLOWED SHION-SAN TO BE TORMENTED FOR QUITE A LONG WHILE,
AND TODAY IS SHION'S BIRTHDAY...
15
March
22
Shion's Birthday
Tournament finals
29
30
YOKOYAMA-SAN...
THIS INCIDENT IS THE KEYSTONE OF MY INSPECTOR CAREER,
I WILL NOT GIVE UP ON SHION-SAN, EVEN UNTIL THE VERY END.
WE WILL DEFINITELY FIND THE CRIMINAL!

HEHE HE.
OH, MY.
Happy Birthday!
FOR MOTHER TO SUDDENLY TELL ME TO PICK UP GROCERIES...
From Mama
Shiori! Sorry about this... Could you pick up some groceries for dinner on your way back? Please buy the following:
1 Cabbage
IT MUST BE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE INCIDENT,
SHE DOES THIS SO THAT I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...

HMM...
AH!
Cabbage
¥98
THERE'S A SPECIAL ON THE CABBAGE!
THIS ONE'S BETTER!
LET'S SEE...
ASPARAGUS, TOMATO, MILK, 200G PORK ROAST...

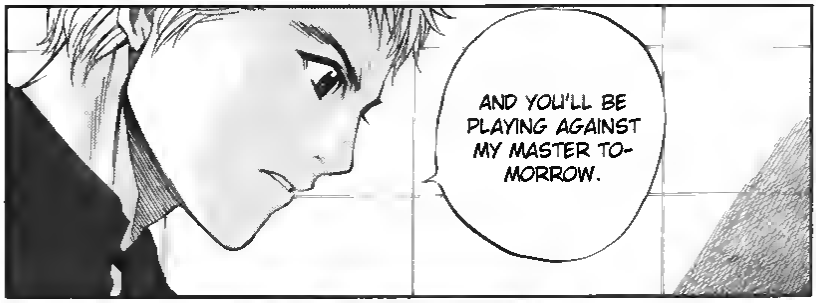

1824 YEN.

AYUMI-KUN SEEMS USED TO THIS.

I SEE...
HE'S BEEN LIVING ON HIS OWN ALL THIS TIME.
OKAY THEN, I SHOULD PROBABLY GET GOING...

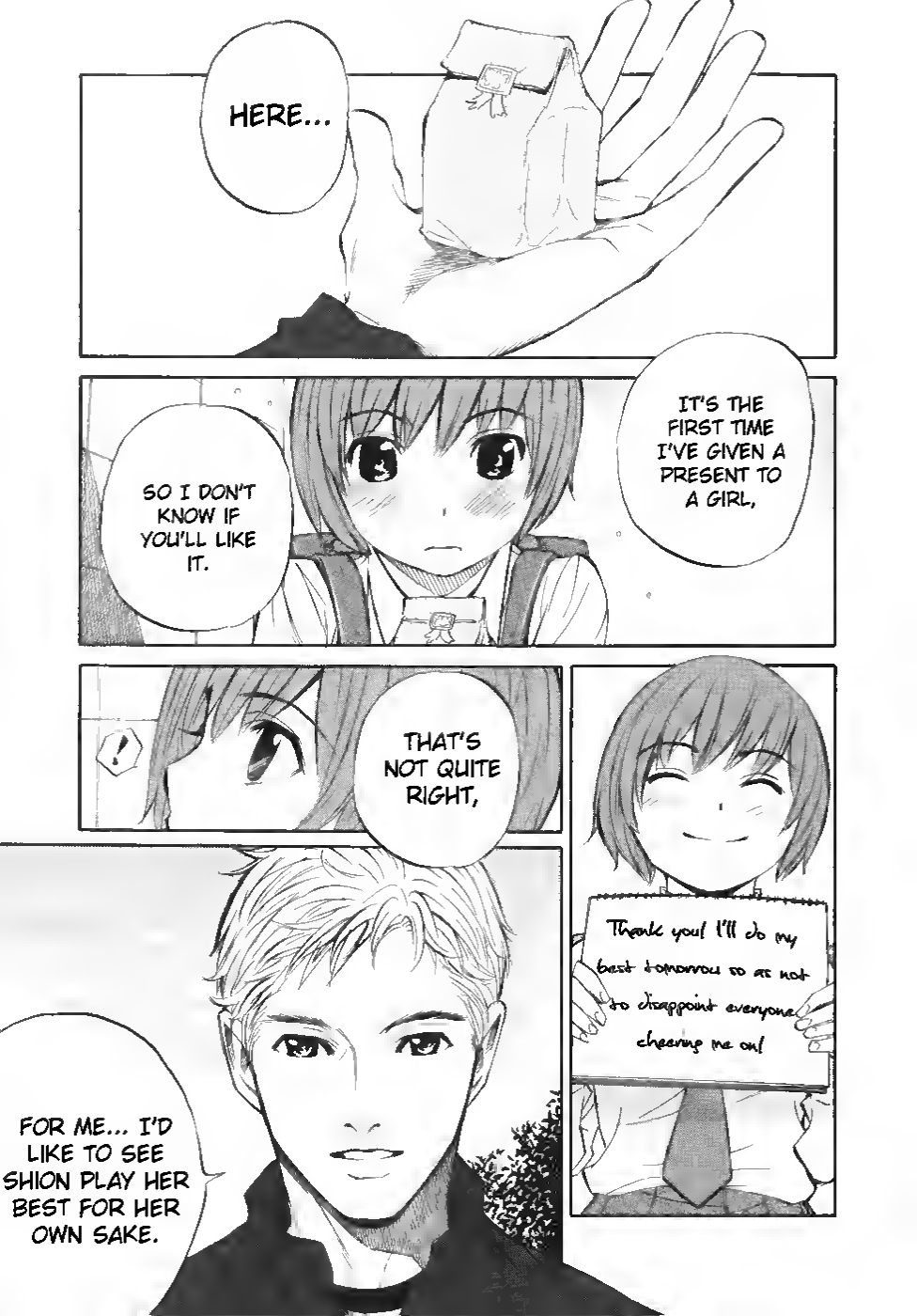
THANK YOU...
BUT I CAN'T TODAY.

Come and eat dinner over at our place.


AND YOU'LL BE PLAYING AGAINST MY MASTER TOMORROW.

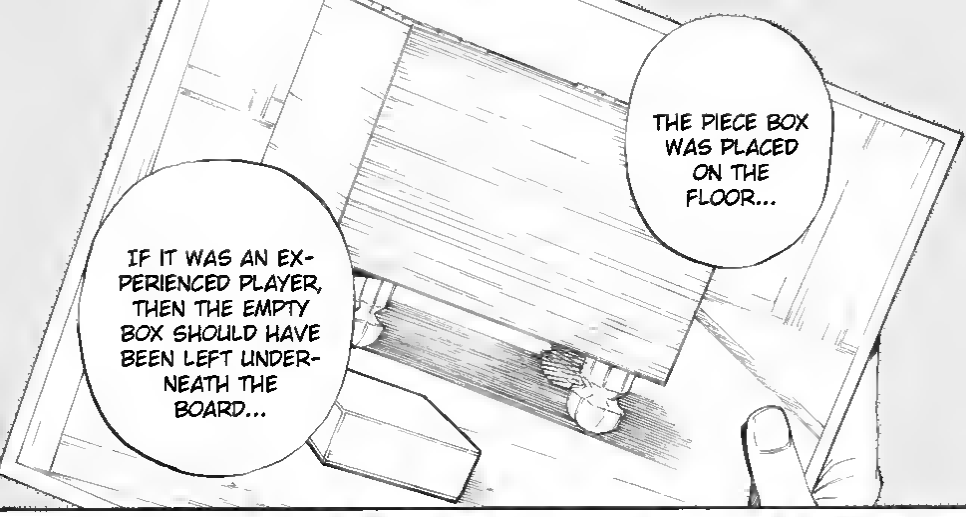
AH, THAT'S RIGHT,

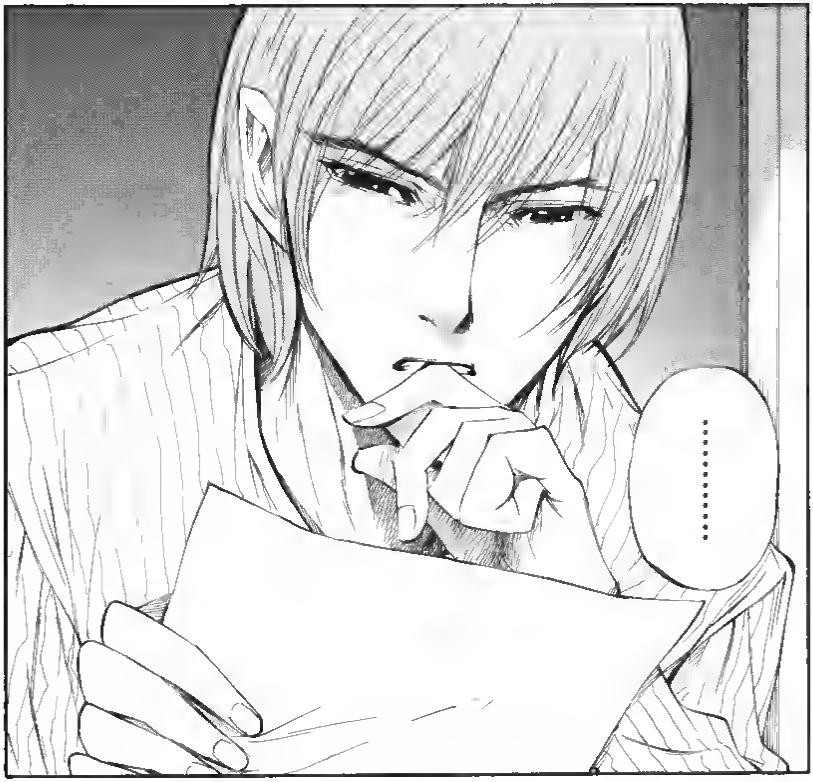
AYUMI-KUN...
Come and eat dinner over at our place.


HERE...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE GIVEN A PRESENT TO A GIRL,
SO I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL LIKE IT.
!
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT,
Thank you! I'll do my best tomorrow so as not to disappoint everyone cheering me on!
FOR ME... I'D LIKE TO SEE SHION PLAY HER BEST FOR HER OWN SAKE.

FOR MY OWN SAKE...
Happ
Birt
Squeeze

AM I MISSING SOMETHING OBVIOUS?
THE CRIMINAL MUST HAVE LEFT A TRAIL SOMEWHERE...
THE POSITION OF THE PIECES BOX IS...
HM?!
Rummage
WHERE IS THAT PICTURE OF THE BOARD?!


THE PIECE BOX WAS PLACED ON THE FLOOR...
IF IT WAS AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER, THEN THE EMPTY BOX SHOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT UNDERNEATH THE BOARD...



40th Move ■ END

41st Move

The Resurrection Move

THE CRIMINAL ISN'T A PRO?
THE POSI-TION OF THE PIECE BOX...
Beep!
WHY WOULD HE COME HERE...?
SAITOU... AYUMI?!

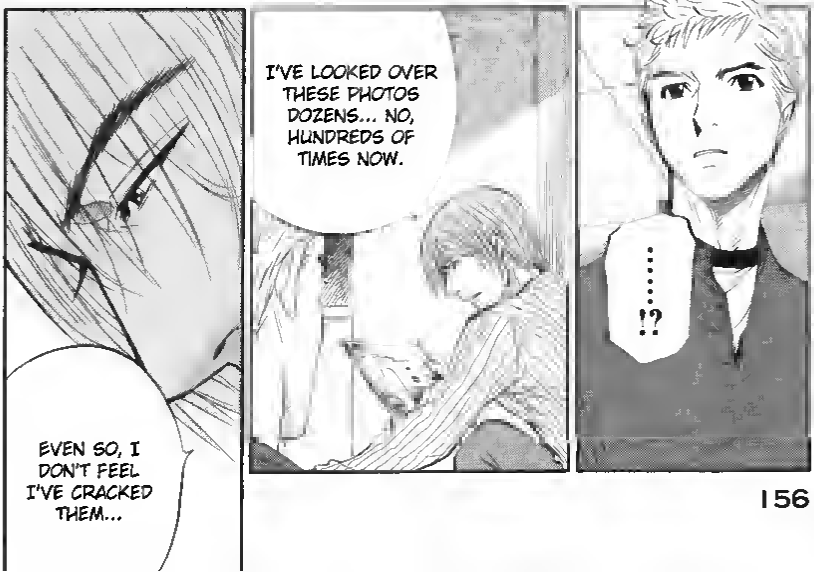
HE REALLY DID NOTICE IT WAS ME, AS I THOUGHT.
SAITOU-SAN, HELLO... OR WAIT, I GUESS IT'S SAITOU-KUN NOW, ISN'T IT!
Sunny
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD COME AND VISIT,
COME ON IN.
NO, THAT'S FINE.
I JUST CAME TO DELIVER THIS, SINCE THE MEIJIN ASKED ME TO.
IT'S FROM MY BROTHER?
THAT'S RARE.

I JUST FINISHED REFUSING SOMEONE ELSE'S DINNER INVITATION.
I ORDERED A CATERED MEAL FOR DINNER,
IT WOULD BE A WASTE IF YOU DON'T JOIN ME, SINCE I CAN'T FINISH IT ALL ALONE. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
YOU SAW SHION THIS AFTERNOON, DID YOU?
Tense
HOW MUCH EXACTLY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT EIGHT YEARS AGO?
AND HOW'S THAT ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS?

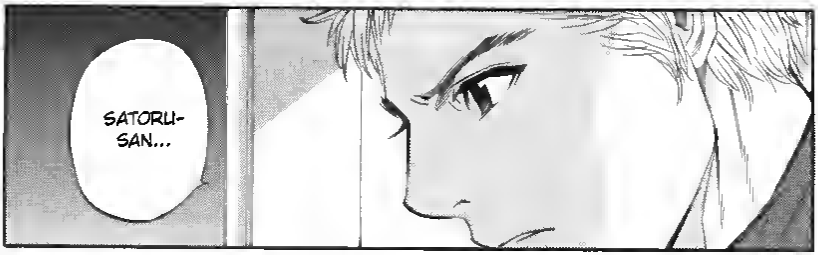
WHAT WOULD YOU DO...
IF I TOLD YOU I WAS THE KILLER?
JUST FOLLOW ME.
Swivel
!?
!!
clench
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

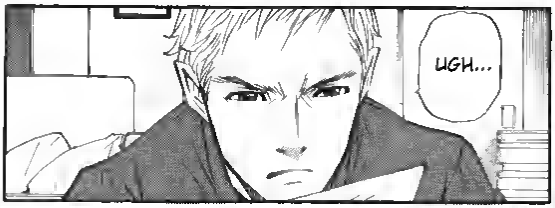
YOU...! WHY DO YOU HAVE THESE?!

TO FIND THE KILLER, OF COURSE.


I'VE LOOKED OVER THESE PHOTOS DOZENS... NO, HUNDREDS OF TIMES NOW.
.....!?
EVEN SO, I DON'T FEEL I'VE CRACKED THEM...

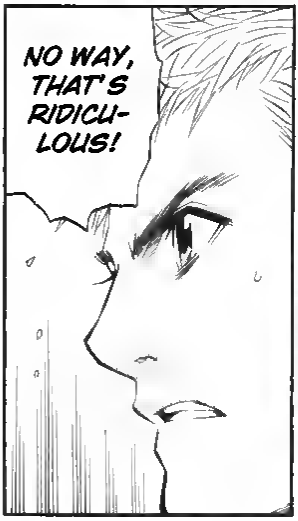
JUST LOOK AT THESE PHOTOS AND TELL ME IF YOU NOTICE ANY-THING,
PLEASE!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S JUST A SMALL DETAIL!


SATORU-SAN...


UGH...

AND LOOK HARD.
IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT, BUT KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN,

THE KILLER MURDERED THE ISHIWATARI COUPLE MERCILESSLY AND ESCAPED WITHOUT A TRACE,
THE ROOM WAS A MESS BUT NOT A SINGLE OBJECT OF VALUE WAS STOLEN.
AND ALL HE LEFT BEHIND WAS A FINISHED GAME OF SHOGI...
!!
A GAME?!
BETWEEN WHOM...?


NO WAY, THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!

SHION AND THE KILLER.

LOOKING AT THE SULLIED BOARD, PIECES AND CAPTURED PIECE STANDS,
THIS IS DEFINITELY AFTER A MATCH.
THE POLICE JUST THOUGHT IT WAS A BOARD WITH THE PIECES LINED UP ON IT...
BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?
?
LOOKS LIKE I'M BACK TO SQUARE ONE.
SO YOU NOTICED THAT AFTER ALL.
BUT ISN'T IT PECULIAR FOR THE PIECE BOX TO BE SO CASUALLY LEFT ON THE SIDE?
OR, THE OTHER POSSIBILITY...
THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MOVE PLAYED AGAINST ME THOSE EIGHT YEARS AGO...

WAIT...
YOU DON'T
THINK...?!
YES...
I SUSPECT
HIM.
MY BROTHER,
HANI MEIJIN.

OH, THAT WAS QUICK!
INSPECTOR YOKOYAMA, I FOUND THE IP ADDRESS OF THE GUY WHO WROTE THAT POST.
WAS IT SOME INTERNET CAFE, AS WE THOUGHT?
NO, ACTUALLY,
ARE YOU SAYING IT WAS WRITTEN BY SOMEONE AT THAT NEWSPAPER COMPANY?
THAT IS LIKELY THE CASE.
THIS IS...

THE DOMAIN ADMINISTRATOR WOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY EXACTLY WHO IT IS,
BUT WE'D HAVE TO GET A WARRANT TO SEARCH THE MEDIA FROM THE HIGHER UPS...
!?
WE DON'T NEED THAT TYPE OF THING.
Caller
SASAKADO!
YOU HAVE A CALL ON LINE 2,
YES, HELLO?
SASAKADO SPEAKING.

I SAW THE FORUM.
Tense
IF IT ISN'T YOKOYAMA-SAN!
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN AGES, AND YOU SUDDENLY ASK ME ABOUT WHAT?
Cmx
DO YOU PLAN TO PLAY DUMB?
THEN MAYBE I SHOULD ASK YOU ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION FILES THAT WERE LEAKED INSTEAD.
IF YOU DO THAT,
WON'T YOU BEAR THE BRUNT OF IT?
I DON'T MIND A BIT OF TROUBLE,

IF IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF CAPTURING THE KILLER,
I'LL GLADLY STRETCH MY NECK OVER THE CHOPPING BLOCK.
SO, I'LL HAVE YOU TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW...
ABOUT HANI SATORU.
FOR MYSELF ...
SHINJI SAEKIRO SHION

SHION, DINNER!
Grip
OH, LOOK AT THAT, WHAT A CUTE PENDANT YOU HAVE, SHION. WAS IT A PRESENT?
IT'S FROM A BOY, FOR SURE!
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS
Stare
AAAH, SHION!
IT'S TRUE, YOU HAVE TO VALUE YOUR FRIENDS, HOW-EVER...
?

A SHOGI PLAYER'S NO GOOD, YOU HEAR?!
MARRYING A SHOGI PLAYER WILL ONLY BRING YOU TROUBLE!!

MARRYING, DEAR...
It's only a present
HOW OLD DO YOU THINK SHION IS?

I HAVE SHION,

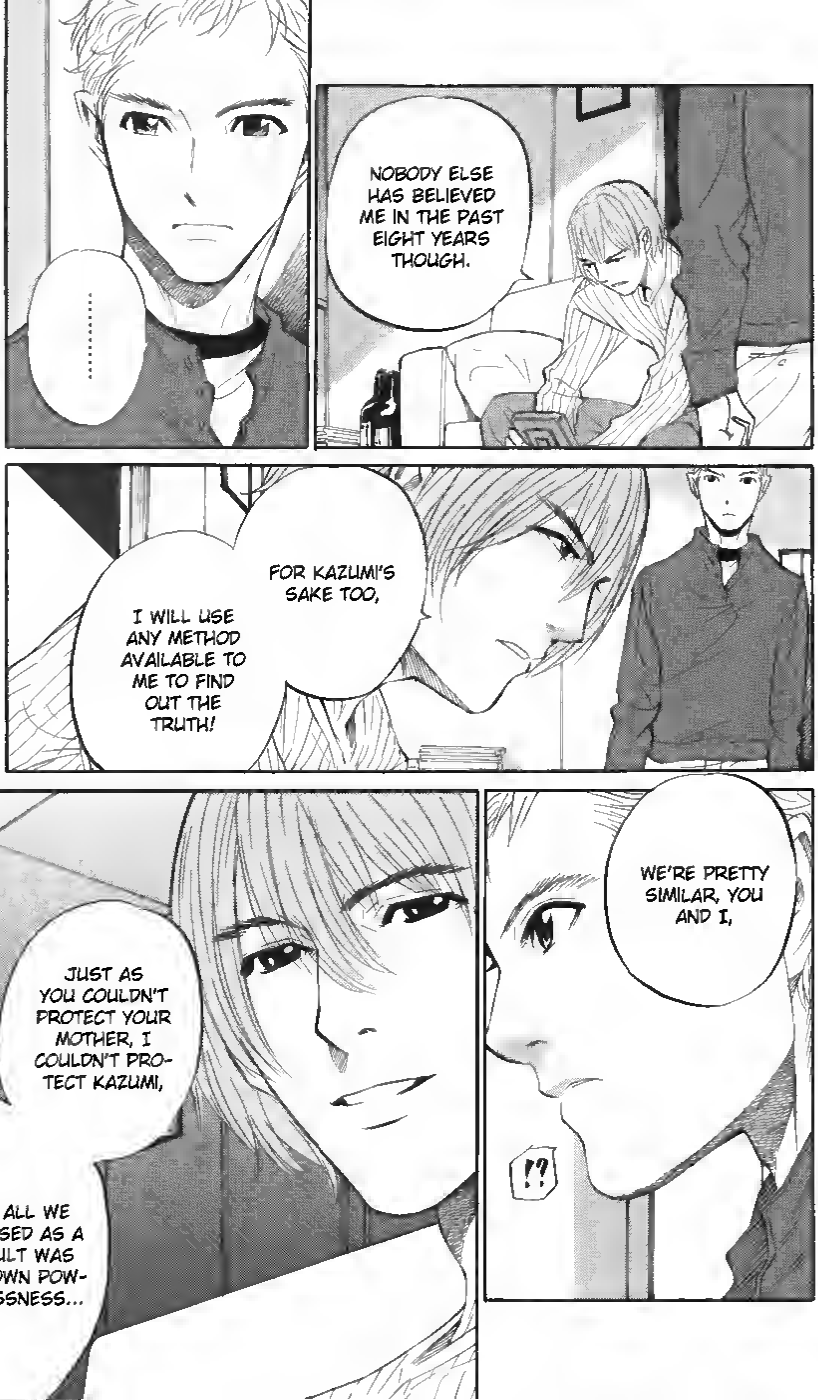
AND, IN ANY CASE, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY TROUBLE AT ALL!

AND I HAVE YOU, MY DEAR...
BOTH OF YOU HAPPILY PLAY-ING SHOGI.
WHAT COULD MAKE A GIRL HAPPIER?

YEAH, I SUSPECT HIM, MY BROTHER, HANI MEIJIN...
BUT, I DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE,
THERE'S NO MOTIVE EITHER.
ALIBI?
AND, MOST OF ALL,
MY BROTHER HAS AN ALIBI.
THE DAY OF THE CRIME, BECAUSE IT WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE A TITLE MATCH, MY BROTHER WASN'T IN TOKYO.

IF YOU'VE FOUND OUT ALL THAT, THEN WHY DO YOU STILL SUSPECT HANI MEIJIN...?
MY BROTHER'S THE ONLY ONE...
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CONNECTS KAZUMI AND SHION.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET MARRIED.
AT THE TIME, KAZUMI WAS WORKING AT THE ISHIWATARI'S ACCOUNTING FIRM,
I HAD BEEN AWARE THAT THE ISHIWATARI COUPLE TREATED KAZUMI VERY WELL, DESPITE NOT HAVING ANY DIRECT RELATION TO HER...

AND I HEARD STORIES OF THE YOUNG SHION FROM KAZUMI BACK THEN TOO.
WHERE IS THIS WOMAN NOW?
AND YOU THINK SHE WAS KILLED BY THE SAME CRIMINAL?
DO YOU THINK IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE?
SHE DIED...
THE DAY AFTER THE ISHIWATARI COUPLE WERE MURDERED.


.....
NOBODY ELSE HAS BELIEVED ME IN THE PAST EIGHT YEARS THOUGH.
FOR KAZUMI'S SAKE TOO,
I WILL USE ANY METHOD AVAILABLE TO ME TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH!
WE'RE PRETTY SIMILAR, YOU AND I,
!?
JUST AS YOU COULDN'T PROTECT YOUR MOTHER, I COULDN'T PROTECT KAZUMI,
AND ALL WE REALISED AS A RESULT WAS OUR OWN POWERLESSNESS...

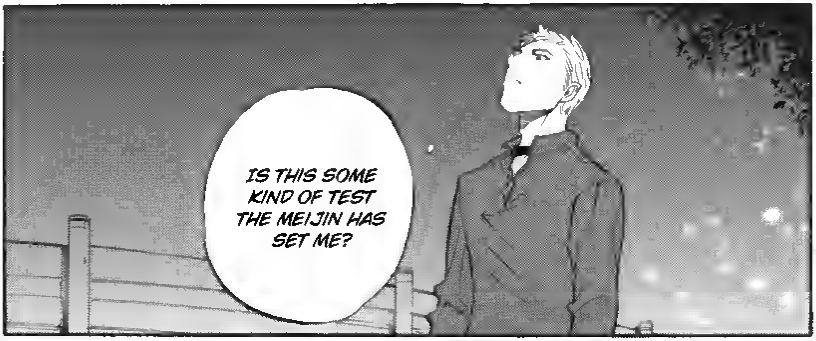
I WONDER, HAS MY BROTHER NOT PLAYED A MOVE TO STRIKE AT YOUR WEAKNESS TOO?
.....

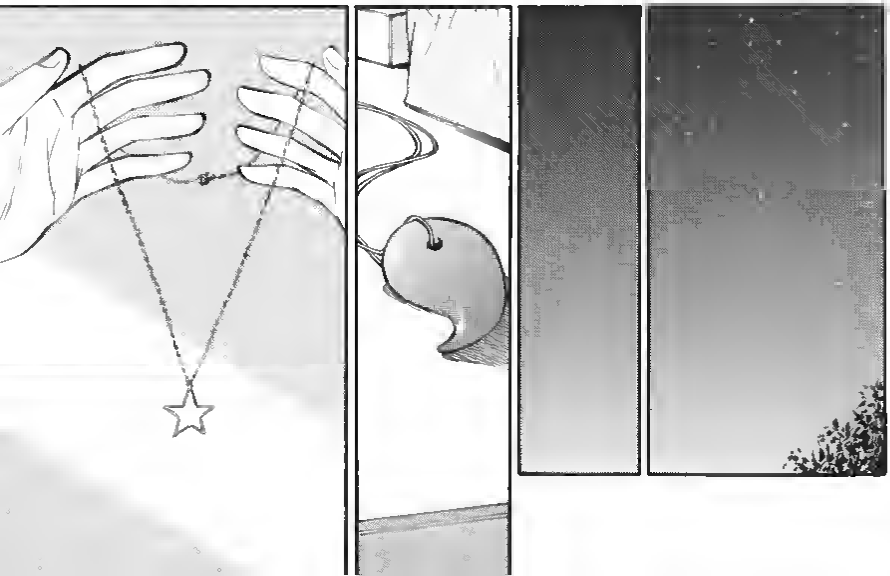
A MOVE AT MY WEAK-NESS...

IF I HAD THAT MONEY, THEN I'D BE ABLE TO BREAK TIES WITH MY FATHER...

I'D LIKE YOU TO DEPOSIT ALL THE PRIZE MONEY IN THIS ACCOUNT...
IF I HAPPEN TO WIN IN THIS TOURNA-MENT...

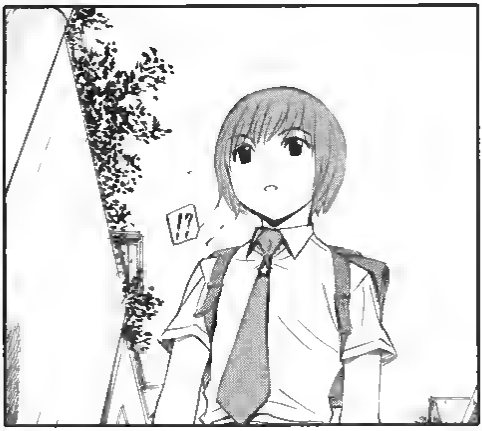
THEN THAT MEANS SHION LOSES...
BUT IF THE MEIJIN WINS,


IS THIS SOME KIND OF TEST THE MEIJIN HAS SET ME?



IT'S PRETTY EARLY, NO?
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
HMMM...
THERE'S APPARENTLY AN INTERVIEW OF SOME SORT BEFORE THE MATCH BEGINS.
Ruffle
GO PLAY A GAME THAT YOU WON'T REGRET.

GOOD MORNING,
SORRY TO MAKE A SURPRISE APPEARANCE ON THE MORNING OF YOUR IMPORTANT MATCH.

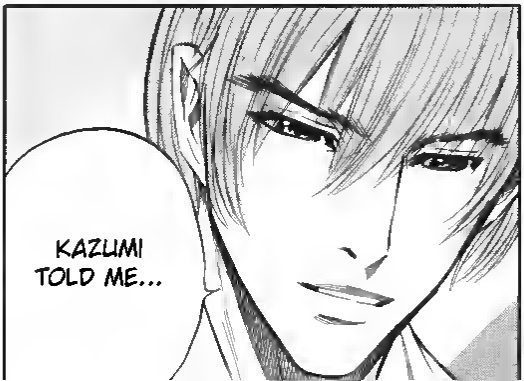

!?

IT WASN'T LONG AGO THAT I WAITED TO INTERCEPT YOU ON YOUR WAY THERE, WAS IT...
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL FORGIVE ME,
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I NEEDED TO ASK YOU...
THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT, YOU PLAYED SHOGI AGAINST THE KILLER, RIGHT?
WAS HE...
STRONG?

I SEE...
THANKS.
NOD

.....?

LONG AGO, KAZUMI,


KAZUMI TOLD ME...

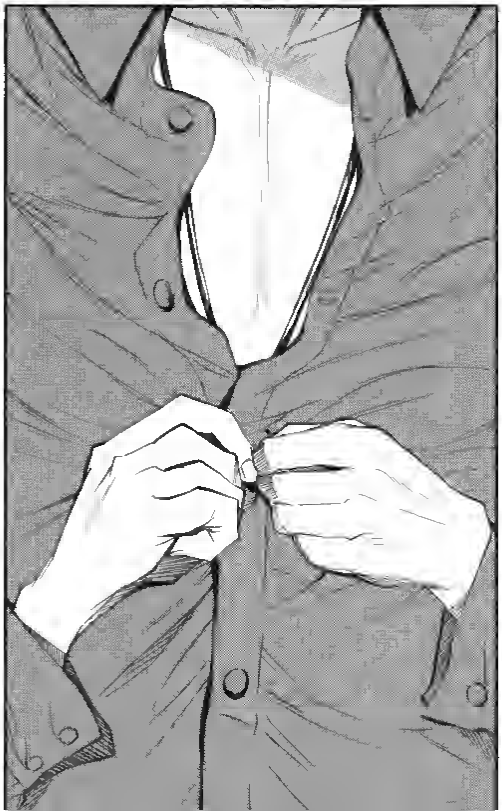
THAT IF WE MARRIED,
SHE HOPED WE'D HAVE A DAUGHTER LIKE YOU.
I HOPE YOU PLAY A GOOD GAME TODAY.
SEE YA'
PHEW...
OOPH.
Open Tournament Finals
Shogi Association

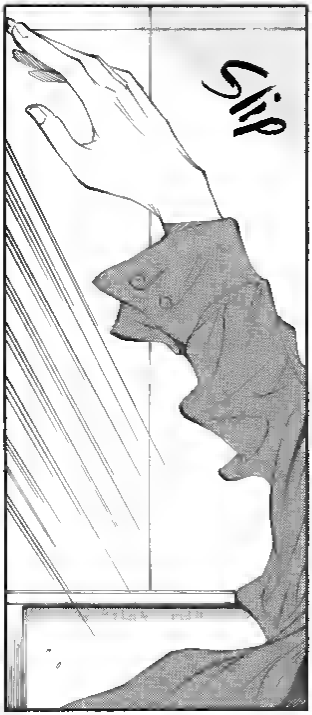
THE FINAL MATCH OF THE PRO-AMATEUR OPEN TOURNAMENT,

HANI MAKOTO, MEIJIN VS YASUOKA SHION, WOMEN'S LEAGUE 1ST DAN. EACH PLAYER HAS 5 HOURS OF PLAYING TIME. NOW, AT 10 AM...

LET THE MATCH BEGIN.

42nd Move
Two Demons




Slip

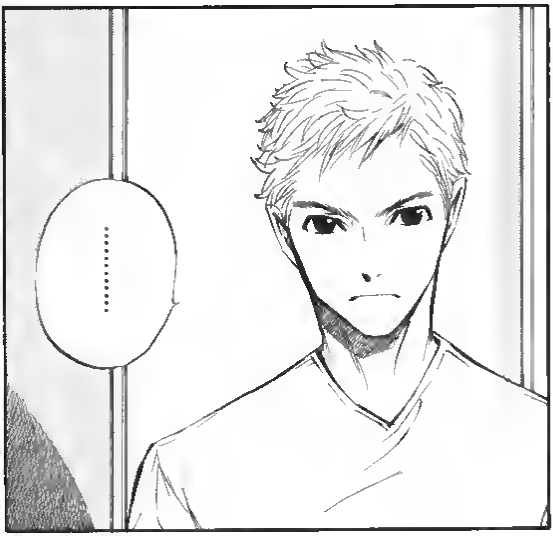
I ALWAYS PUT THE RIGHT SLEEVE ON FIRST AND BUTTON MY SHIRT UP FROM THE BOTTOM...
IT'S ONE OF MY RITUALS ON MATCH DAYS.
DOES THAT SOUND SILLY TO YOU?
NO...
WELL, I THINK THINK IT'S SILLY.
THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANY BEARING ON WHO WINS OR LOSES THE MATCH.
AND YET, I ALWAYS DO IT...

THIS IS WEAKNESS.
I HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THE PAYMENT METHOD, BUT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, IT SHOULD BE PASSED ON TO YOU,
SO YOU CAN ACCESS IT EITHER BY BANK CARD OR IN CASH.
OH YES, ABOUT TODAY'S PRIZE MONEY...
WITH THAT MONEY, GET RID OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT GET IN THE WAY OF PLAYING SHOGI.

IF IT ISN'T ELECTRONICALLY DEPOSITED TO YOU, THEN I'LL WRITE YOU A CHECK.
DON'T MEET THAT FATHER OF YOURS EVER AGAIN, AND IF YOU HAVE A GIRL, THEN SETTLE IT WITH THAT MONEY.
IT'S SOMETHING KAMIZONO 9TH DAN ONCE SAID.
"IF YOU RID YOURSELF OF ALL EVILS IN THIS WORLD...
THEN THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT BUT TO BECOME A PRO SHOGI PLAYER."
I ADMIRED THAT LIFESTYLE.
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME STRONG, THEN YOU HAVE TO BE RESOLVED...

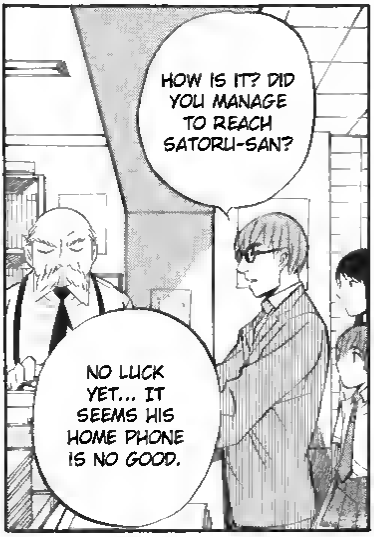
TO THROW EVERYTHING ELSE AWAY.

Shogi Association


.....

I'M GOING TO ASK THESE QUESTIONS,
SO I'D LIKE YOU TO WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS IN ADVANCE.
... YOU SEE?
EXCUSE ME,
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD SHION-SAN'S INTERVIEW BEFORE HANI MEIJIN'S?
SATORU-SAN, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO ASK THE MEIJIN HIS INTERVIEW QUESTIONS, STILL HASN'T ARRIVED...
FURUTA-SAN!

HE'S NOT PICKING UP HIS MOBILE EITHER.


HOW IS IT? DID YOU MANAGE TO REACH SATORU-SAN?
NO LUCK YET... IT SEEMS HIS HOME PHONE IS NO GOOD.

YOU'RE HERE ALREADY, HANI...

.....

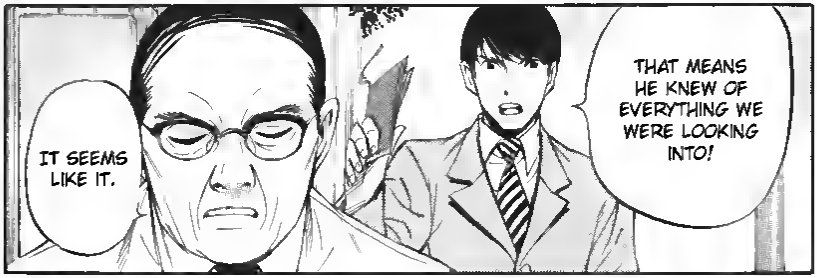
I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM. IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO BE LATE ON THE DAY OF THE FINALS... HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT TOO.

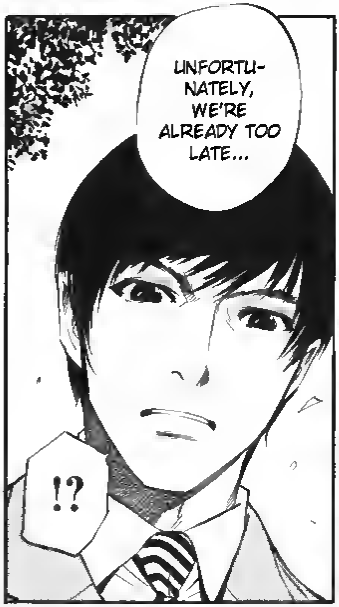
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
Gasp
No, I don't know anything.
IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON THE MATTER, PLEASE TELL US.
I SEE...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

IN THAT CASE, SHION-SAN AND SAORI-SAN, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.

YOKOYAMA-SAN!
TAP
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT THAT REPORTER SAID?
.....

"I HANDED OVER THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT SINCE HE WAS INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF HIS FIANCE, SETO KAZUMI..."
AND ABOUT HANI SATORU,
"WE WROTE THAT POST ON THE FORUMS ON REQUEST OF DIGITAL PHONES AS A MEANS TO GET PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT."

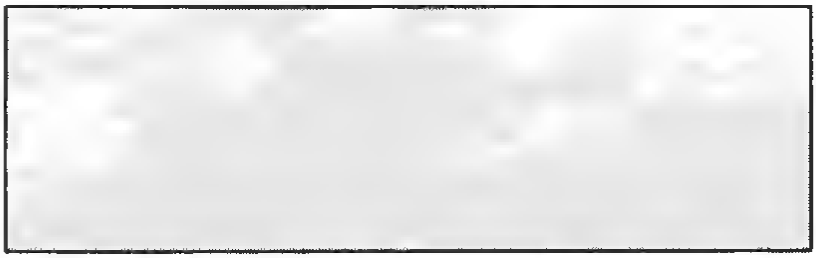

IT SEEMS LIKE IT.
THAT MEANS HE KNEW OF EVERYTHING WE WERE LOOKING INTO!

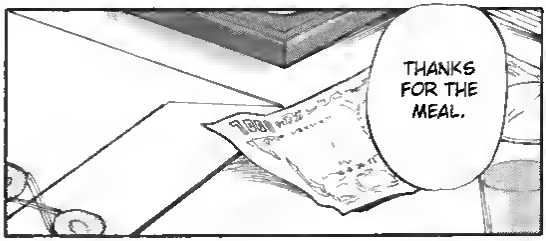

UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE ALREADY TOO LATE...
!?

"IT SEEMS LIKE IT"? THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
IF WE DON'T QUICKLY SECURE HIM, THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY HE'LL TRY TO ESCAPE-...
THAT MEANS THAT HE SHOULD REALISE THAT WE SUSPECT HIM OF BEING THE CRIMINAL!

BUT HANI SATORU HAS GONE MISSING SINCE THIS MORNING.
JUST IN CASE, I HAD SOMEONE MONITORING HIS HOUSE,
I HAVE SOMEONE LOOKING OVER CCTV FOOTAGE FROM SUBWAY STATIONS, BUT IF HE WENT BY TAXI OR BY FOOT, THEN WE'RE STUMPED.
WE'RE ALSO TRACING HIS MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL, BUT HE HASN'T USED IT THIS MORNING...
I HESITATED TO DO ANYTHING AFTER HEARING HIS CAR WAS STILL IN THE PARKING LOT,
YOKOYAMA-SAN, SINCE WHEN WERE YOU DOING ALL THAT?!
FOR NOW, HANI SATORU IS OUR PRIORITY.
AND EVEN SO, IN THE END, WE'VE BEEN PLAYED.
SHION-SAN'S MATCH IS GOING TO START SOON...

YES, SIR!!
WHATEVER IT TAKES, WE'LL TRACK HIM DOWN TODAY!



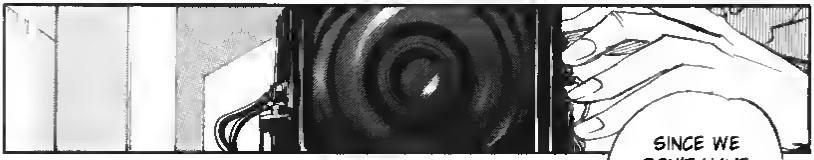

THANKS FOR THE MEAL.

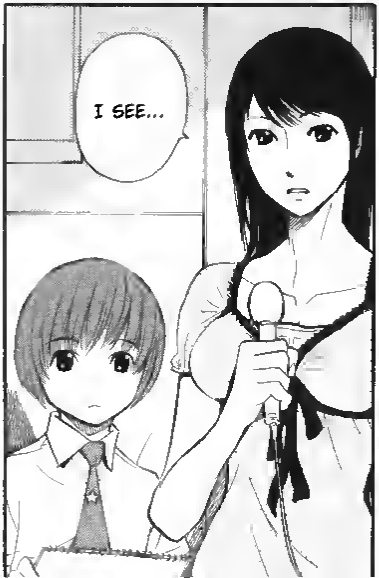
MISSUS, DO YOU HAVE A PHONE I CAN BORROW?

SET MEAL
Open

OH, SATORU-SAN!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? EVERYONE'S WORRIED.
HANI MEIJIN ALSO TRIED TO GET A HOLD OF YOU AND CALLED YOUR MOBILE A NUMBER OF TIMES...
Click
10 PM
SORRY FOR ALL THE INCON-VENIENCE, I HAD A SUDDEN MATTER TO TAKE CARE OF AND HAD TO GO ON AN OUTING...
I JUST CAME TO HEAR SOME STORIES OF THE PAST.
WELL, IT'S NO BIG DEAL,

YES...
PLEASE TELL MY BROTHER I'LL DEFINITELY BE BACK BY TONIGHT.

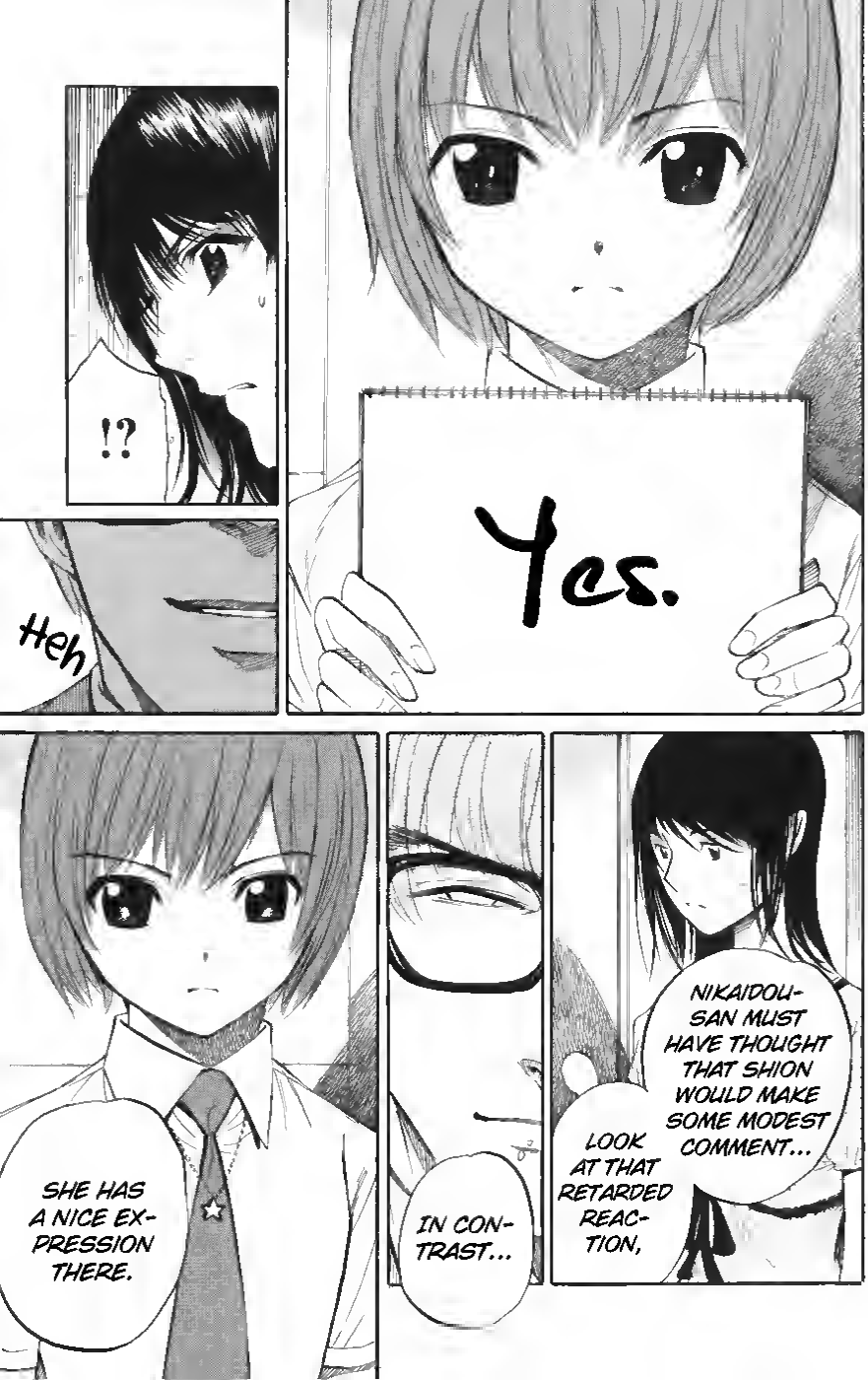



I SEE...

SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, WE'LL CHANGE PLANS A BIT,
AND JUST ASK ONE QUESTION.
Thanks!

ARE YOU NERVOUS?
THE REST IS AS ARRANGED,
I'LL TAKE OUT A POSTER, SO NIKAIDOU-SAN JUST NEEDS TO READ WHAT IS WRITTEN,
THE CAMERA'S ROLLING, HERE'S THE QUESTION!
Yasuoka Shion Women's League Player Interview Question
Do you think thot the killer who murdered your porents is someone close to you?

!?
SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
OUTRAGEOUS! HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY ASK A QUESTION LIKE THAT RIGHT BEFORE HER MATCH?!
Clench
I'LL ASK A SIMPLE QUESTION TO TRY TO SOOTHE SHION-CHAN'S FEELINGS...
Scritch Scritch
WELL THEN, LET ME ASK YOU, YASUOKA, WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER,
WERE YOU EXPECTING THAT YOU'D REALLY MAKE IT TO THE FINALS OF THE TOURNAMENT?

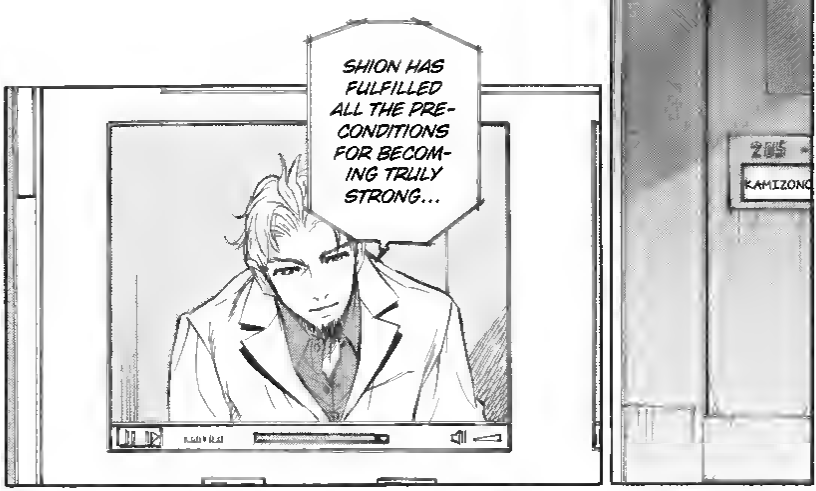

!?
Yes.
Heh
NIKAIDOU-SAN MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT SHION WOULD MAKE SOME MODEST COMMENT...
LOOK AT THAT RETARDED REAC-TION,
IN CON-TRAST...
SHE HAS A NICE EX-PRESSION THERE.

ALRIGHT, THAT'S GREAT!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SHION-SAN.
NIKAIDOU-SAN, PLEASE CONTINUE AS YOU'RE DOING IN PLACE OF SATORU-SAN FOR THE MEIJIN'S INTERVIEW.
EH?!
PLEASE KEEP IT TO ONE QUESTION FOR ME TOO...
ONE THAT I'LL LIKE, PLEASE.
THERE'S NO POSTER PREPARED FOR THE MEIJIN, SO PLEASE MAKE SOMETHING AD LIB!
WHAT EXACTLY SHOULD I ASK...?

HANI MEIJIN...
DID YOU THINK THAT YASUOKA-SAN WOULD BE YOUR OPPONENT IN THE FINALS?
YES...
I DID.

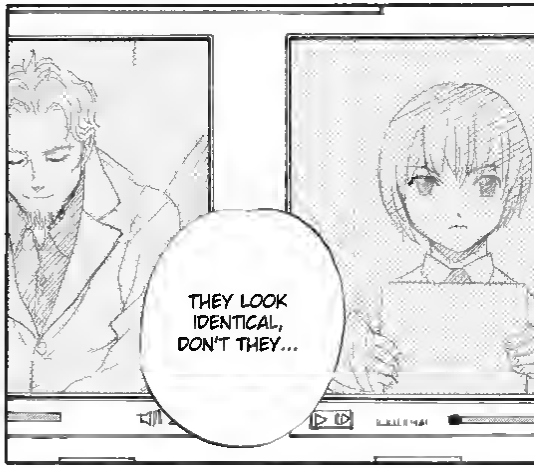
BECAUSE UNLIKE YOU, SAORI,
SHION HAS FULFILLED ALL THE PRECONDITIONS FOR BECOMING TRULY STRONG...
FEEL FREE TO CUT IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO USE IT.
SORRY I'M NOT VERY CHARISMATIC,
WOAH!
I GOT ANOTHER GREAT PIECE OF FOOTAGE THERE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR PRECIOUS TIME BEFORE YOUR MATCH.
NO, NO, OF COURSE I WOULDN'T,

NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD CUT OUT AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW LIKE THIS...!
HERE IT IS...


SHION HAS FULFILLED ALL THE PRE-CONDITIONS FOR BECOMING TRULY STRONG...
KAMIZONO

HEH... PRECONDITIONS FOR BECOMING STRONG...

WHAT'S SIMILAR ABOUT THEM?

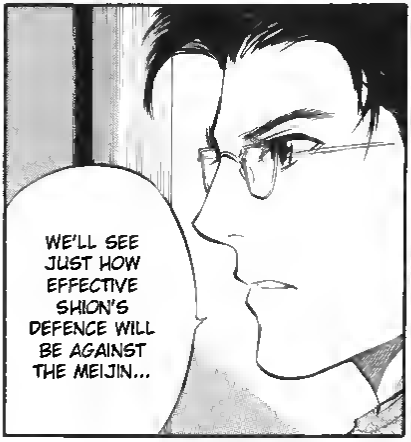

THEY LOOK IDENTICAL, DON'T THEY...

HANI'S BROTHER, IS IT...?
PLEASE, I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT SUB-JECT.
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
I WAS HOPING TO DIG THROUGH YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR MATCH 8 YEARS AGO.

Special Match Room
I'LL BE FINE...
IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS. THE SMELL OF THE MATCH ROOM. THE FEEL OF THE SHOGI PIECES...

THE FIGHT IS ON!!
THE RESULT OF THE TOSS IS THAT YASUOKA, WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER, WILL PLAY FIRST.
IT IS NOW TIME.

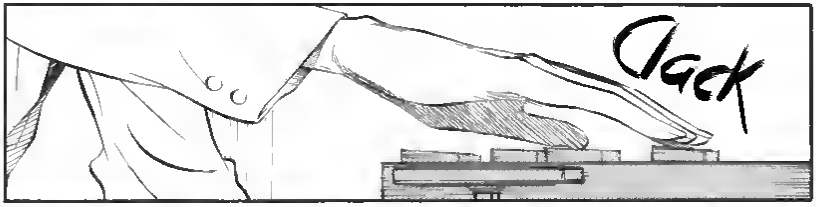
LET IT BE A GOOD GAME.


WE'LL SEE JUST HOW EFFECTIVE SHION'S DEFENCE WILL BE AGAINST THE MEIJIN...

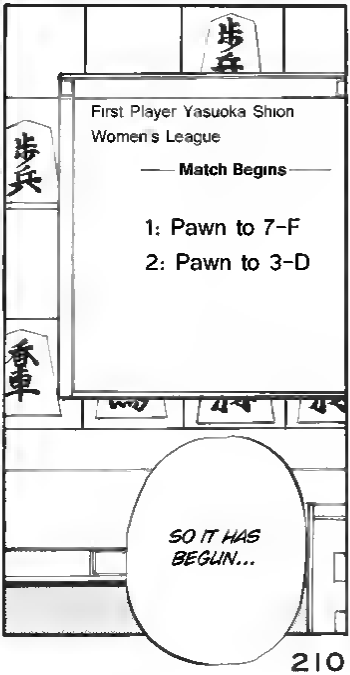
IT'S FINALLY STARTED!
YES.

BECAUSE UNLIKE YOU, SAORI, SHION...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WHAT? OH... NOTHING.
I HOPE YOU WILL SHOW ME DURING THIS MATCH,
Clench
Click
WHAT THESE "PRECONDITIONS FOR BECOMING TRULY STRONG" YOU TALK ABOUT ARE, HANI...

FIRST MOVE, PAWN TO 7-F...


Jack

THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR EXPERIENCE IS SURELY GREAT,
BUT SHION KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.


First Player Yasuoka Shion
Women's League
Match Begins
1: Pawn to 7-F
2: Pawn to 3-D
SO IT HAS BEGUN...

THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO PLAY CAREFULLY DURING THE OPENING GAME... THIS WILL PROBABLY BE A RESERVED GAME OF SHOGI FOR A WHILE.
Clack

KNIGHT TO 7-G?!
桂馬
Huh

D-DEMON KILLER?!
TO THINK... THAT SHION WOULD PLAY POWER SHOGI AGAINST NONE OTHER THAN HANI MEIJIN!

2: Pawn to 3-D
3: Knight to 7-G

KU... KUKUKUKU

Shion no Ou 7 ■ END

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